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Note and Comment.

The Inverness Free Presbytery are taking action against the opening of ice-cream shops on Sunday.

The property of Denny West Church has been put on the list of U. F. property claimed by the "Wee Free."

Seventeen million out of 27,000,000 people in the Southern States are living under absolute prohibition.

Not a single candidate from New York succeeded in the qualifying examinations for the 1905 Rhodes scholarship.

Great Britain builds more ocean-going ships (1,405,000 tons in 1904) than all the rest of the world (1,075,000 tons).

Peaches are selling in the West-End of London at 15s. 6d. a dozen, and baskets of strawberries at 4s. 6d., or 6d a berry.

The Government of New South Wales has sanctioned the erection of two State institutions for the treatment of inebriates without means.

Mr. Alex. Gardner, Paisley, announces that a third edition of "Lady Nairne and her Songs" by the Rev. G. Henderson, Monzie, is ready.

It has cost Russia \$1,000,000,000 so far to be beaten in Manchuria. And she is trying to borrow more money at home and abroad to carry on the contest.

There are 541 communicants in Tain Established Presbytery. Last year the Christian Charity collections amounted to £1,055, an increase of £400.

A statue of Robert Burns has been erected in Sydney, Australia, by public subscription. It is over ten feet in height, and represents the poet resting on a plough.

After a lingering illness the Rev. Dr. Orrock Johnston, senior minister of Westbourne United Free Church, Glasgow, passed away on the 15th inst., at Kilmacolm, where he has resided since his retirement in 1898.

Statistics show that Prohibition in Kansas is an annual saving to the people of \$8,000,000. Forty-four out of 105 counties are without a pepper; and in 37 counties there is not a single occupant in the jails.

The Czarina possesses the most valuable fur in existence. It was a gift to her from the Siberian town of Vikoutsk, on the occasion of her coronation, and, though only a pound in weight, is valued at £12,000.

The congregation of the U.F. High Church, Linlithgow, have presented their minister, the Rev. Alex. Mitchell, with a gold watch, and Mrs. Mitchell with a silver alver and a gold opal and diamond ring, on their marriage.

At Westminster Chapel, London, on Sunday, the 5th inst., fifty new members were admitted to the fellowship of the church. Dr. Campbell Morgan is drawing regularly a congregation which crowds every part of the building except the top gallery.

Including Formosa, Japan, with a population of about 48,000,000 employs more than 600,000 persons in her seaweed industries, which have long been so intelligently developed that some of these marine vegetables, or their derivatives, enter into almost every Japanese meal.

Women in Russia are to be given the chance of taking up agriculture as a regular profession. The government is founding an agricultural high school for women, whose students will administer the crown domains on equal terms with men.

The South Western Presbyterian says: "Fanny Crosby Sunday" was much observed. Now let us have an Isaac Watts Day, and a Reginald Heber Day, and a Hortius Bonar Day, for variety's sake throwing in a King David Day, and a Son of Asaph Day. A Francis Ross Day might be a happy concession to our Associate Reformed friends. It may be well, also, to have a St. Anonymous Day.

The United States Wine and Spirits Gazette says: "According to statistics recently gathered about 30,000,000 people are living in prohibition territory in this country. This is more than one-third of the entire population. In Maine, Kansas, and North Dakota, they have prohibition by State law, and in thirty-eight other States they have it by local option."

It is said that the continual emigration of Roman Catholics from Ireland has so depleted the Roman Catholic Church in the island as to alarm the priesthood, and has led to the organization of an Anti-emigration Society. It does not appear that the population as a whole, is decreasing; those leaving the island are, for the most part, Catholics who can not get a living there, and their places are taken by others not committed to the church.

Few people who have not traveled about the Russian Empire can imagine how boundless is its wealth in timber. "Wooden Russia" is the name applied to the vast forest areas of Russia in Europe, which cover nearly 500,000,000 acres, or 36 per cent. of the entire area of the country. In Russia houses built of any other material than wood are almost unknown outside the cities, and wood constitutes the principal fuel. The forest belt called the "Taiga," in Siberia, stretches in a direct line from the Urals to the Pacific for 4,000 miles, and is in many parts 500 miles broad. All this is the property of the Czar.

Continued efforts are being made by Prince Edward Islanders to induce the Dominion Government to unite their Island to the mainland by means of a submarine tunnel between Cape Traverse and Cape Tormentine. It is claimed that, according to the terms of Confederation, the Dominion Government is bound to maintain communication and continuous connection with the railway system of the mainland. The cost of such an undertaking is estimated at \$10,000,000, the interest on which it is believed, would be easily saved by the improvement on the present unsatisfactory arrangements.

The Rev. W. J. Dawson, who has been evangelizing among the Congregationalists of the United States this year, and who is on the programme of the Sunday school convention in Toronto next June, differs from the type of the old evangelist. He is a poet, a dramatist and a novelist. He is an authority on English literature and has a reputation as a lecturer. Wherever he has gone, his audiences in cities like Boston, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Providence and Worcester have taxed the largest buildings. "Dr. Dawson represents a blending of enthusiasm and genius. His evangelism stands for culture plus zeal," says the Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis. He is a man of perhaps fifty years of age, and for twenty years has been known as one of the popular preachers of England.

Dr. Oler, speaking in Montreal a few evenings ago epitomized his advice to young medical men as follows:—"There are three things the practitioner needs: a note-book, a library, and quinquennial brain dusting. The note-book is necessary to keep live observations on all cases, serious, obscure, and mistaken diagnosis. With regard to brain dusting I advise merciless self-severity, and broad charity to others, but especially always that you play the game fairly. The ambition of every young doctor should be to have three well-stocked chambers—a library, a laboratory and a nursery. You may not achieve the first at once, but you can start at least, and, if necessary, for the sake of the first two, leave the nursery to the future."

The last Border Magazine contains a well-written appreciation of the late Rev. Thomas Martin, who was for nearly 28 years parish minister of Lauder.

Dr. Wilfrid Grenfell, the young Englishman and Oxford man whose story of his winter ministrations among the people of his ice-locked Labrador coasts is printed in the April McClure's, and who is favourably known in Canada was asked at a dinner in New York if he were married. "No," replied the surgeon-missionary. "I couldn't ask a woman to share a life like mine." Most missionaries are married and find their wives their best helpers in their labors; but Dr. Grenfell's work makes domesticity impossible. His people are scattered over 2,000 miles of coast, from Newfoundland to Hudson Strait, and he is almost constantly off on dog sledge journeys during the winter and in the open season follows the fishing fleet.

A Temiskaming Mining Division has been created by the Ontario Government. It takes in the territory where the rich silver cobalt ores have been discovered, and also an area to the north. The head office of the division will be at Haileybury. The district is bounded on the east by Lake Temiskaming and the boundary line between Ontario and Quebec, as far north as Lake Abitibi. Thence the line runs to a point eight miles north of the outlet of the Abitibi River, due west to the Nipissing-Algoma boundary line, thence south on the boundary line, diverging east to Trout Lake, thence along the great northern bend of the Montreal river, following the river to the southern boundary of the township of Coleman. It then runs along the eastern boundary of the timber limit of Lumsden and Booth, thence along the 3rd and 4th concessions of Colerain township to Lake Temiskaming.

The Hon. Chester Holcombe has written a book on China, and from the Chinese point of view. He admires the people and expresses sympathy with them, not admiring or approving; all that Western people have done in that land. His testimony to the missions and missionaries is emphatic. He says—"Their simple, quiet, devoted lives make an impression upon many who never hear a word of their teachings. They represent all that has ever been done for the education and elevation of the female half of the entire population of China. Practically the only schools for modern education have been established and conducted by them. The benefits of modern medical and surgical knowledge and practice reach the Chinese only through missionaries. Text books and educational works of almost every class have been translated into the native tongue, and thus placed within reach of the people almost exclusively by missionaries. They are not merely evangelists of the Christian faith; they are the exponents of new ideas, a broader range of knowledge, a higher type of manhood and womanhood, a veritable new birth and a new intellectual life.

Referring to the financial outlook in their last week's circular the New York Bankers, Messrs. Henry Clewes and Co., say: The foreign situation does not seem to be a factor at the moment. Peace prospects have been deferred by the discovery that neither of the belligerents is yet prepared for peace. Russia is unwilling to accept the humiliation that must come, while Japan evidently intends to do the work of chastising her opponents thoroughly so that it will not have to be done over again. No doubt Japan would like to capture Vladivostok and also Rojestvenky's fleet, concerning which little has been lately heard. Both of these prizes seem to be within the grasp of Japan ere long, and success in these respects would enable Japan to dictate more effective terms of peace than now. Russia could unquestionably make better terms now than six months later, but wisdom seems to have departed from the throne of the Czar, and pride and ignorance rule instead. The rise in Japanese credit and the fall in Russian credit are highly significant, and it seems quite likely that the great bankers will be as much a factor in making for peace as the great generals and armies engaged in deadly combat.