

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

Dr. Parker, of the City Temple, London, says that for some reason or other, he locks upon 1901 as his last year of public work.

Mr. Kruger has issued another appeal to the burghers, in which he declares that "the Lord has stood on our side, working miracles."

A number of Scottish grouse, have been imported by the Canadian Government from the Highlands of Scotland for the purpose of stocking the provincial parks.

It is rumored that the Duke of Argyll may succeed Lord Cadogan as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. The residence of one of the Queen's daughters in Ireland would no doubt be popular.

Sir Edwin Arnold has received from Bangkok a receipt by the King of Siam, confirming his appointment as "Chulasurabhorn" or Grand Officer of the Most Honorable Order of the Crown of Siam.

In view of the near approach of the proclamation of the Commonwealth, Earl Beauchamp, Governor of New South Wales, after conferring with Sir W. Lyne, the Premier, has decided to tender his resignation earlier than he intended.

"Dr. Monro Gibson got more out of his little page of shorthand notes than the average speaker would get out of a barrel of manuscripts." So says the Editor of the Christian Endeavor World in notes on the recent great convention in London.

The Army postal arrangements in South Africa seem to be in a deplorable state, says the Christian Leader. A member of the Imperial Yeomany had thirty-four letters posted to him by friends, not one reached him. They were all correctly addressed.

The Roman Catholic papers of Austria complain of the diminished attendance of their followers upon the public "Corpus Christi" processions, and that the Lutheran services in churches, halls and barns are well attended by former Roman Catholics.

The principle of total abstinence was introduced to Switzerland in 1877, when the "Blue Cross" was founded in Geneva by Pastor Louis Rôckat. The membership to-day is 15,000. The State churches have societies on the dual basis, and in all Swiss total abstainers number about 25,000.

Mr Seddon Premier of New Zealand, advocates the inauguration of a preferential tariff between that colony and Canada. He also suggests preferential trade with the United States, but this at the present time, hardly comes within the range of practical politics, and, at any rate, does not concern us.

The Boers have evidently resolved that if they cannot "stagger humanity" they will make a determined stand along the line of country which is eminently suitable for guerrilla warfare and harassing tactics. The Boers are at their best in that sort of game. We are at our worst, by reason of the long line of communication which must be sedulously guarded.

The Zionists, among whom rank such foremost Jews as Max Nordau and Zangwill, have been holding a Congress in London to promote their idea of recovering Palestine for their people. Christian interpreters of prophecy have often foreshadowed such an event and sometimes thought it near. Nor is it to be counted an impossibility, though the Sultan holds the country at present, and though five and ten centuries ago similar efforts were made by small but influential groups of Jews.

An English temperance orator, speaking on the subject of the possibility or impossibility of closing the saloons, said: "This is a difficult question, truly, my friends but we will do well to remember that

There is a little public-house which every one may close:  
It is the little public house just underneath the nose."

General Fukushima, who led the Japanese troops at the last battle at Tientsin, is one of the best officers in the Japanese Army. He is a great linguist, and has travelled throughout Europe. His most important work outside of war was his ride from Europe to China via Siberia. He did this on horseback, and wrote an interesting book about his travels.

Mr. Charles Mackenzie, youngest brother of the late Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, prime-minister of Canada, died at his home in Sarnia on Sept. 4, after a lingering illness, aged 67 years. He formerly represented East Lambton in the Ontario Legislature. Deceased was a man of much ability and force of character. He was a member of the Presbyterian church.

Sir Oliver Mowat, Lt. Governor of Ontario, has found it necessary on account of his health, to decline an invitation to be present at the opening of the Lambton County fair. In his reply to the directors he says: "I like to believe that next year my health may permit me to take these opportunities of meeting the people of the various ridings of the province, including Lambton."

The Toronto Star is doing a good work in interviewing old residents in the county of Simcoe, and elsewhere, and thus rescuing from oblivion much valuable matter of an historical character that would otherwise perish with the passing away of the early pioneers. In another column we republish the Star's interview with Rev. Dr. Gray, of Orillia, the first Presbyterian minister in that district. We are sure it will be read with interest.

The Boers, according to a Cape doctor who served with the Boers ambulance, have a peculiar affection for Tommy Atkins. They also have their favourite among the British generals. Baden-Powell, for instance, is considered by them to be an immensely fine fellow, and they positively love Lord Roberts, whose policy, like his plan of campaign, has been excellent. They were also very fond of the late lamented Wauchope, and of General White. Their particular aversion is Lord Kitchener, whom they are said to hate with an unspcakable hatred.

The Christian Scientists of Philadelphia applied to the authorities for a charter for a church. The judge before whom the application came refused to grant the charter, on the ground that such an organization is contrary to the law and the interests of the people. The law is intended, he said, to protect the public from illicit medical and surgical practitioners and stands in the way of the pretences of these people. It will not be long, he thinks, till it will be enforced against them, not only repudiating their claims as a Christian organization, but protecting the public against their injurious practices.

The extent to which the consumption of liquor enters into the problem of the social life of France may be seen from the statement that a member of the French Commission for the study of questions affecting the working classes declared a short time ago that he and his colleagues, in the conscientious discharge of their duties, took a number of meals at different restaurants in Paris and other cities frequented by laboring men, and they noted that fully two-thirds of the money paid for meals by the customers of these establishments was paid for liquor. Paris has now at least twice as many public houses as before the war of 1870, and probably the same proportionate increase holds with reference to other sections of France.

The Ottawa fair promises to be one of the best in the province this year. It has a live set of officers, who do not sacrifice either time or money to ensure success. There is a great array of attractions and a heavy prize list, which should draw an immense attendance and assure keen competition.

The latest returns of Methodism have just been published, embracing seven branches in Great Britain, seventeen in the United States, one in Australasia, and one in Canada. The total returns are as follows: Number of members, 7,382,146; churches, 80,031; ministers, 44,509; local preachers, 133,434. Sunday schools number 79,192; officers and teachers, 790,850; Sunday school scholars, 6,271,748. The largest Methodist body in Great Britain is the Wesleyan Methodist, the Primitive Methodist body coming next with a membership larger than all the other minor Methodist bodies combined. In America the largest Methodist church is the Methodist Episcopal Church, embracing more than one-third of the membership of Methodism throughout the world.

The Society of Friends has failed to establish a colony of Dukhobors in the Island of Cyprus. A settlement was made of 1,126 of these people who landed in August 1898, and through the generous assistance of the committee of the Friends were located on farms where their agricultural habits enabled them to earn a livelihood. Mr. Wilson Sturge, who was deputed by the English committee to superintend and direct the settlement, was indefatigable in his efforts to make the scheme a success. The immigrants, however, who were accustomed to a colder climate, suffered from sickness, and were anxious to join their co-religionists in Canada. The Committee of Friends acceded to their desire, and arranged for their transfer to lands across the Atlantic.

The commercial prosperity of Great Britain is still strongly in the ascendant. According to the Board of Trade returns, which were published a few days ago, the imports from foreign countries and British possessions during the month of July amounted to \$201,320,835, representing an increase of \$1,043,975 over the corresponding month of last year. The total value of imports for the seven months of this year ending July was \$147,495,195, or an increase of \$96,299,630 upon the same period for the last year. The exports of British produce and manufactures for the same month amounted to \$122,752,785, or an increase of \$6,772,095 upon the value of the exports during the month of July, 1899, and while the total value of the exports for the first seven months of this year is \$844,636,605 or an increase of \$96,047,345.

Most people in this country, says a British exchange, hold in their minds very inadequate notions respecting the chronic struggle between Russia and China, over the ownership of this magnificent region called Manchuria. A strange little bit of history is involved, which is already largely forgotten, notwithstanding that it is so recent. That history explains vividly the entire "leitmotif," as the Germans style it, of Slav diplomacy. The whole life of the late Count Muravieff, like that of his father before him, was devoted to the exploitation of Russia's design with regard to the annexation of those Chinese territories which intervened between the Pacific and South Siberia. For though North Siberia had been long before extended to the ocean by the conquest of the wild tribes of Kamtchatka, South Siberia was stopped off abruptly by the grand obstacle on which China relied—the Amur River and the mountains of North Manchuria. But, unfortunately for China, the Amur bisected Manchuria, and that geographical accident singularly aided the plan of Muscovite appropriation. "The acquisition of North Manchuria will make the mighty Amur a Russian stream, and after that South Manchuria will become Russian automatically," said the Slav bureaucrats, who always relentlessly promote the traditional process of Russian expansion, no matter what may be the individual will of this or that Czar.