

PRESBYTERIAN UNION.

Injunction Applied for, and Courts May Prevent Action.

Des Moines, Iowa, May 13 (Special).—When the general assembly of the Presbyterian and the Cumberland Presbyterian churches meet on Thursday of this week, the former in this city and the latter in Decatur, Ill., the officers and members of the Cumberland Assembly may be enjoined from continuing their efforts to unite the two bodies. An application for an injunction, the petition claiming that the Cumberland Assembly has no right to declare a union of the Cumberland Church with another separate and distinct organization and provide for a transfer of the property. The prayer of the petitioners is that the General Assembly be enjoined from voting on this union. Whether or not the courts interfere with the proposed union, it is probable that there will be an exchange of visitors by the two assemblies. The members of the joint committee have become well acquainted in their numerous conferences, but there is still a good deal of suspicion on the part of some of those who have not met their brethren from the other body.

Several able ecclesiastical lawyers upon the committee of union and others called in for conference declare that every constitutional requirement has been met by both assemblies, and they are of the opinion that no judge will issue an injunction which would prevent the bodies from continuing their conferences and their voting if it shall be decided by them that a vote at this session is necessary. The complainants are members of the Cumberland Church, who are strenuously opposed to union, and, adding that they cannot stem the stream of prog-

down. To meet this difficulty the orders of service are usually printed from week to week in the form of a time table and distributed in the pews on Sunday.

For the first time since the Southern branch of the Church was formed, owing to the action of the assembly in supporting the administration, the color question threatens to cause a rift in the lute of perfect harmony. A year ago, at the demand of the Cumberland branch of the Church, whose strength is mainly in the South and West, the presbyteries decided to allow the formation of separate presbyteries and synods, but they drew the line at the assembly, so far they would yield, but beyond this was the "dead line." The negroes must get out of the presbyteries and synods, or the white people would form new ones, but within the four walls of the assembly all men are brothers—theoretically. The hotel proprietors of this city have declared that they will not entertain a colored man, even though he be a commissioner. The assembly is highly educated, and no speakers are heard with greater interest and accorded more marked attention than they. As the committees hold their meetings in the hotels, and as much of the pleasure connected with the assembly centres around these informal conferences and still more informal after dinner conversations, from which the negroes will be excluded by this hotel order, it may be that the more refined and sensitive members will stay away from the assembly rather than suffer the humiliation of being shut away from their white brethren.

In connection with every meeting of the assembly for the last five years special stress has been laid upon the evangelistic work carried on by the committee of which John H. Converse, of Philadelphia, is chairman and Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman secretary. The success this last year has been marked, judging from the reports received from New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Texas, Alabama and other states where Dr. Chapman and

referring to the proper attitude recently of the Church toward socialism, he said:

First—It must recognize the fact that there are some good things in socialism, for which socialism should be given credit. Second—It must recognize the right of every man to be a socialist if he is convinced that socialism is a more just and more socially sound. Third—It must insist upon the fact that the Church does not stand for the present social system; it stands for no particular social system. It accepts only so much of the present system as is in accordance with the principles laid down by Jesus Christ. It insists that these principles shall be applied to society in all its ramifications, it believes that others besides socialists have both the brain and the heart to interpret these principles. Fourth—It must prove that it is not offering the Gospel to the workers as a mere sop, nor because it is afraid that some day they will bring on a revolution. It is offering the same Gospel, with all its privileges as well as all of its obligations, to its employers.

The Presbytery of Cleveland and the Synod of Ohio will present to the Assembly an earnest request for the appointment of a committee to consider the question of a consolidation of the boards of the Church. Since the foreign board exercises within itself and for its work functions pertaining to several other boards, it is suggested that the eight boards be reduced to three—home missions, foreign missions and ministerial immunity. This subject will meet with strong opposition in the assembly and among the members and friends of the boards which it is proposed to absorb.

Mormonism and temperance, like the poet's brook, will flow on again and will give the commissioners a refreshing hour when they come up for discussion. A new feature of work has been undertaken this year, through the committee on work among seamen; its members have been to Washington to see the government officials in regard to more naval chaplains, and if new ones are appointed an effort will be made to get one or two more to keep the one Presbyterian chaplain in the corps company.

The assembly will be opened on Thursday morning in the auditorium, when the Rev. Dr. James

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PANAMA PEDAGOGUES.

American School System in Isthmian Canal Zone.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]
Washington, May 13.—The teachers of the Panama Canal Zone have just completed their first

PROMINENT FIGURES IN THE PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH MEETS IN DES MOINES, IOWA, THURSDAY NEXT.



The Rev. Dr. Noble, permanent clerk. The Rev. C. L. Thompson, secretary Home Board. The Rev. Dr. Chapman, secretary Evangelistic Committee. The Rev. Dr. Moffat, retiring Moderator. The Rev. Dr. van Dyke, chairman of the Committee on the New Prayerbook. J. H. Converse, chairman Evangelistic Committee. Justice John M. Harlan. The Rev. W. H. Roberts, stated clerk.

ress in the ecclesiastical courts, they have, like Paul of old, appealed to Caesar. The union of these churches has been strongly opposed, upon both doctrinal and constitutional grounds. A repetition of the legal controversy in the Presbyterian Church of Scotland is feared by some. Other branches of the Presbyterian Church are considering closer relations, some favoring federation and others corporate union. The question of the federation of all evangelical churches is also to be taken up at the meetings of the several assemblies this year.

Next in importance to the Cumberland Union question is that of the new prayer book to be presented to the coming assembly by a committee of which Dr. Henry van Dyke is chairman. When Dr. van Dyke was accused, a year ago, at the Winona Assembly, of forcing a liturgy upon the Church, he said:

"If I had to commit suicide I would do it in some other way than by trying to impose a liturgy on the Presbyterian Church." The report submitted at that time was discussed both long and earnestly, and at times with a good deal of waspishness. After

his associates have held revival services. Dr. Chapman will speak at one of the popular meetings, besides speaking at one or more of the business sessions of the assembly.

"The Interior," one of the leading weekly papers of the denomination, in an editorial entitled "Present State of Evangelism," suggests that the committee should begin to prepare the Church and itself for the ultimate withdrawal of the stimulus which it has applied. Certain abuses, it is claimed, have developed since the evangelistic activity was begun, five years ago. These are: (1) the exaggerated claims of success that have been put forward; (2) the boastfulness with which the activities of the Church have been gloried in; (3) the exaltation which has been given to the professional itinerant evangelists above the settled pastors; (4) the suspension of avowed which some evangelists have allowed to follow them; (5) the songbook folly.

The Rev. Charles Steidle, whose university training was obtained in the Hoe Printing Press Works in New York, and whose mother, he says, often

D. Moffat, president of Washington and Jefferson College, will preach; in the afternoon his successor will be chosen. Among the more prominent candidates for the place are Hunter Corbett, a veteran missionary in China; Dr. James M. Barker, of Detroit; Dr. John P. Hendy, of Jefferson City, Mo., and Dr. Albert B. Marshall, of Minneapolis.

In discussing the work of the Presbyterian Church last week the Rev. Murdoch McLeod, pastor of the Central Presbyterian Church, of this city, who is active in preparing for the coming assembly, emphasized its popular form of government. He said:

This is illustrated by the constituency and character of work of the general assembly, which meets in our city in a few days. It is a delegated body of seven hundred members, composed of one ministerial and one lay delegate for every twenty-four ministers or major fraction of that number. It is the purest form of popular government known today. The delegates are elected by one man or set of men. The people in each particular church are governed and ministered to by officers and pastors of their own choosing. The congregation elects its own ministers and elders, the elders elect their own delegates to the Presbytery and the Presby-

teries, which is reported to have been successful, the teachers being much encouraged at the prospects for their work. It will probably prove a surprise to many people to learn that there are 1,306 children of school age in the canal zone, of which number 140 are white, 1,008 black and 759 brown.

There are forty-two schools in operation or in process of construction, and these will be administered by the twenty teachers now on the zone, under the direction of the Supervisor of Public Instruction, Tom M. Cooke. This school system is entirely distinct and separate from that of the neighboring Panamanian Republic.

Of the school children in the zone 883 can read and write, 333 cannot read or write, and the remaining number can read but not write. Governor Magoon takes a personal interest in the schools, in addition to the supervision which he would naturally give to them from the fact that Supervisor Cooke is under the Governor's jurisdiction, and Mr. Magoon appears to have imparted much of his personal enthusiasm to the teachers who are conducting their work with the greatest energy and fervor.

Institutes or conventions will be held in the zone biennially at least from now on, and it is believed that these experience meetings will do much to further the efficiency of the school work. The organization is similar to that which was begun by Secretary Taft in the Philippines.

REAL CANAL DIGGERS.

Great Shovels in the Culebra Cut at Panama.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]
Washington, May 13.—The Isthmian Canal Commission has purchased sixty-three great steam shovels, one-third of which number are already on the isthmus and one of which, No. 203, is shown in the accompanying illustration. This is what is known as a ninety-five-ton shovel, and its great "dipper" will bite out and transfer to a waiting car five cubic yards of earth and soft rock or similar material at one scoop. When all the conditions are right, the earth naturally soft or artificially loosened and the supply of cars which carry the material sufficient, this great shovel can excavate at the rate of four hundred or five hundred cubic yards an hour, although it is difficult to operate at that rate, not because of lack of capacity of the shovel, but on account of the difficulty of carrying away the material as fast as excavation. The great shovels are being used by constructing a railway track alongside of that on which the shovel is. Long trains of flat cars are then placed

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DENIES IT IS A TRUST.

General Asphalt Company Attacks Older Concerns.

A statement was issued yesterday by the General Asphalt Company, which has headquarters in Philadelphia and is commonly known as the Asphalt Trust, in which the company says that the "old asphalt trusts were the embodiment of fraud and financial rottenness." The statement says that the General Asphalt Company is not a trust at all, and contains a scathing criticism of the methods used in the promotion of the original asphalt companies by Amel Lorenzo Barber and General Francis V. Greene.

That part of the statement denying that the company is a trust, as it has been heretofore designated, follows:

The General Asphalt Company is not a trust, and does not seek to create a monopoly; it believes that the best business policy is that of fair dealing with the public, and acting upon this belief, has ended the era of collusive bidding for city contracts and constantly refused to enter combinations to limit bidding and raise prices. The present company is in no way responsible for the misdeeds and misfortunes of the asphalt

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First—The upbuilding of an institution financially sound.
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The General Asphalt Company then goes into the alleged secret history of the Asphalt Company of America and National Asphalt Company, in which A. L. Barber figures prominently.

The alleged methods of the promoters are explained in detail. A typical transaction says the statement "was the purchase of four small companies by A. L. Barber, General F. V. Greene and associates for \$181,000. These properties were then turned into the Asphalt Company of America for \$2,750,000 of collateral gold certificates. On this deal the promoters made, according to the receiver's estimate, \$2,668,500. First of all the new companies on their paving contracts were exclusively the policies of the two asphalt companies which went out of existence in 1901."

Of the second combination the General Asphalt Company says:

In December, 1901, owing largely to overcapitalization and the enormous profits of Barber and others, the Asphalt Company of America and the National Company, which had bonds and stocks aggregating \$33,000,000, went into the hands of receivers. The holding company was short about \$2,600,000 of its own funds and interest charged on the bonds.

The company declares that it was not responsible for the two older corporations, and says that it has a clean slate. Also it calls attention to the fact that A. L. Barber, who is doing business as A. L. Barber Asphalt Company, is in no way connected with it, and that the latter company is not the same as the Barber Asphalt Paving Company, a subsidiary company of the General Asphalt Company.

FUNERAL OF THE BEY OF TUNIS.
Tunis, May 13.—The funeral of Sidi Mahomet El Hadj, Bey of Tunis, took place this afternoon before an enormous gathering of natives and Europeans and the French military and civil authorities. The crowds chanted dirges, and many of the Arabs touched the garments of the dead Bey with the expectation of obtaining pardon for condemned relatives.

VESUVIUS NOT YET QUIET.
Naples, May 13.—Signor Matteucci, director of the Royal Observatory on Mount Vesuvius, telegraphs that the volcano is in slight eruption. Thick vapors and sand are being thrown out, and the electrical display continues, but he says the situation is not grave.

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PICTURE OF THE FIRST TEACHERS' CONVENTION OF THE CANAL ZONE SCHOOL SYSTEM EVER HELD ON THE ISTHMUS OF PANAMA.

These are teachers of the Canal Zone educational system, in charge of the Supervisor of Public Instruction, Tom M. Cooke.

A prolonged discussion it was referred back to the committee, and is to be one of the "burning" questions this year.

Dr. van Dyke pleads for liberty in Presbyterian worship, declaring that there is room in the Presbyterian Church for different types of worship. "The man with no form at all," he says, "is all right, and also the man who has a form for every week, and also the man who prefers an orderly form of service. As it is now, a bewildering variety prevails in the arrangement in the different parts of the service. It is evidently difficult to a stranger within the gates of one of these Presbyterian churches to know when to rise up and when to sit

himself to bed superstitious that his four sisters and went to meet have dry rolls to eat, will arrange a popular meeting in the interests of laboring men. Mr. Steidle is at the head of the Church and Labor Department of the Board of Home Missions, and as a labor union man he has secured the endorsement of his work by the American Federation of Labor. He has recently conducted shop campaigns in Chicago and Buffalo which have won the approval of pastors and shop owners, as well as of the workmen.

Mr. Steidle speaks fearlessly to the representatives of both classes—the Church and labor. In

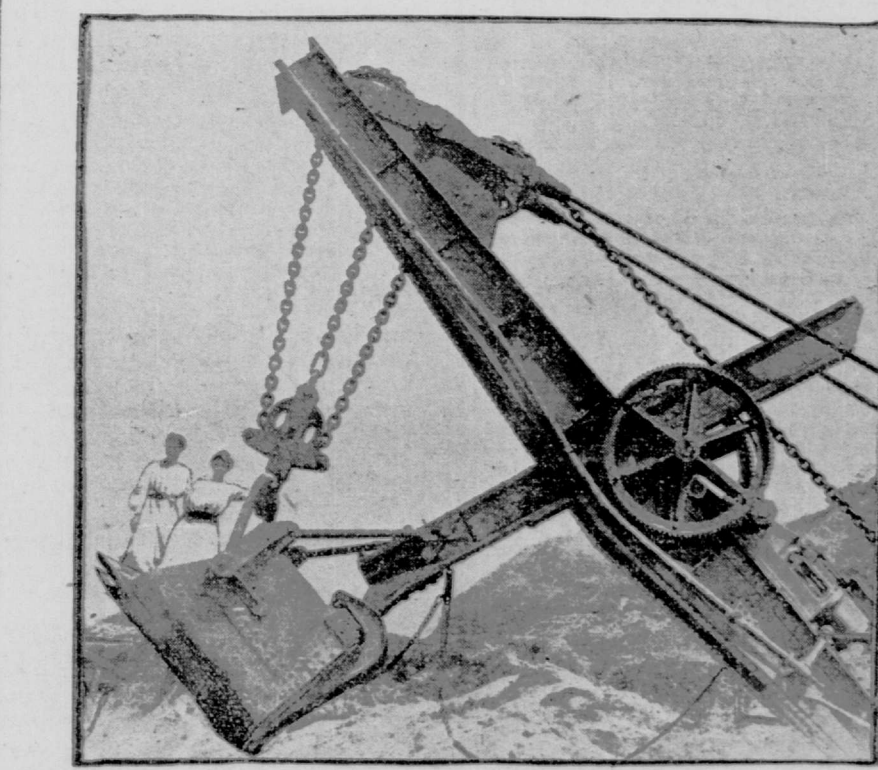
ter elects its commissioners to the General Assembly. The Presbyterian Church is a Christian republic, in which each individual member has a sovereign right of franchise and appeal, and therefore has his own share of responsibility and privilege in the administration of all the affairs of the Church, legislative and judicial.

It is the work of the General Assembly to hear reports and pass resolutions in all the various departments of the Church life: enact, repeal, modify laws, hear appeals, complaints, references from inferior courts, reviews all the records, decides all controversies respecting doctrine or discipline and has general supervision of the entire Church. In all this work of the assembly each member has equal rights and equal privileges of voice and vote. Reports show that the assembly which meets here and which is a representative body from every walk of life and every grade of society, from the full-blooded Choctaw Indian to judges of the supreme courts, merchants and mechanics, authors and jurists, ministers and farmers. They will come from all parts of the country and distant parts of the earth, and all will have equal rights as members of that body and representatives of their people. The Presbyterian system recognizes that a man is a man, no matter how he is following the plough or tending sheep, and can be chosen and found worthy to be an elder in the Church and a commissioner to the assembly.

ITALIAN LABORERS MAY STRIKE.

Through an Italian newspaper in Newark yesterday a committee representing about fifteen hundred laborers on the Lackawanna Railroad between New York and Buffalo announced that there would be a strike this morning if the company failed to make good a promise, said to have been made some time ago, of an increase in wages. The laborers want \$1.50 a day instead of \$1.30, which they get now.

The committee issued a statement, which was sent broadcast through the Italian colonies in Newark and Hoboken and it has caused considerable feeling among the foreigners. The railroad company, the committee claims, about a year ago, the strike, made certain promises which it appears now to have forgotten. The committee in appealing to all laborers to stand by them in the strike, wants the public to know that the controversy will be fought in a peaceful manner and that there will be no attempt at violence.



STEAM SHOVEL 203 IN CULEBRA CUT ON SUNDAY.

The French dredgers never found such loads as this. These are the wives of two American engineers working at Culebra Cut.

on the sliding and filled as rapidly as they can be brought forward to receive their respective loads. When all are full the train is hauled away toward the dumping ground, while another train of empties takes its place.

In addition to the ninety-five-ton shovels, the Canal Commission has purchased a number of seventy-ton shovels, which can remove three cubic yards of material at a scoop, and a few forty-ton shovels, mere babies, which gouge out only one and a quarter yards at a scoop.

The statement goes on to say that the so-called trust was invited but refused to join the Independent Asphalt Association, formed in February last on the initiative of Mr. Barber for the purpose of raising the price of asphalt paving. Continuing, the statement says:

The General Asphalt Company was formed in 1901, and is in no way responsible for the misfortunes and misdeeds of the two asphalt "companies." It succeeded.

The men who wrecked the asphalt companies in 1901 are not now connected with the General Asphalt Company. Some of these men, particularly A. L. Barber, are now in business only as competitors of the General company, having succeeded by an alliance with President Castro of Venezuela in getting control of the product of the Bermudez Asphalt Lake.

The companies which failed in 1901 were the Asphalt Company of America and the National Asphalt Company. The General Asphalt Company bought the assets of both concerns in 1902, two years after the failures which ended their disastrous careers.

This change of management of the asphalt business was accompanied by a change of financial business policy which has had two important results: