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PUBLIC OPINION.

Halifax Chronicle: Nova Scotia in the past has been foremost in the great political struggles of British America. It has produced more great men than all the rest of the Dominion, and Nova Scotians to-day must be worthy of their past.

Ottawa Free Press: It would be unwise to overload the course of studies prescribed for our public schools. The tendency in our system of scholastic training is at present to multiply the studies to such an extent as to leave the pupils at the end of their courses confused, and with nothing more than a superficial and ill-digested smattering of a multitude of subjects.

Montreal Star: Britain is commercial, inventive, educational, liberty-loving, home-making; the Empire is like a busy householder and the fleet is but a revolver under the pillow to scare away intruders. It is prudent to have the revolver always oiled and ready, and of longer range than most; but the stability of the Empire is a thing of National character rather than of the calibre of its cartridges.

Hamilton Herald: The second of the Macdonald memorial statues to be erected in Canada was unveiled in Toronto to-day, Sir John Thompson doing the unveiling, as he did with the Hamilton monument. The Toronto statue is a handsome bit of bronze, and will be quite as much a credit to Toronto as Hamilton's statue is to Hamilton. Canadians should build more monuments to the memory of the men who do great things in this country. They would give young Canadians every day object lessons in the ideals of manhood.

Brockville Times: The *Catholic Register* is advocating the starting of a fund for the purpose of erecting a statue to D'Arcy McGee, in Queen's Park, Toronto. An excellent scheme, which we heartily endorse. McGee, one of the most eminent of Irish Canadians, was murdered by the selected tool of a disloyal conspiracy, because of his loyalty to British Canada, and therefore loyal subjects ought to unite in perpetuating his memory. Besides, he was one of the most genial and generous of men—a true lover of his kind—and therefore worthy the loving regard of all Canadians.

St. John Telegraph: We observe that the question of good roads is attracting much attention in the United States, particularly in the State of New York, where a league has been formed for the promotion of good roads, and where a magazine entitled *Good Roads* is published for the purpose of aiding in the improvement of the public highways. The difference between a good road and a bad road in a country district is so great that it is surprising that so much indifference is shown to the question. The loss suffered, especially by farmers, by bad country roads every year amounts to an enormous sum, far more than the interest on the capital necessary to provide the country districts which suffer from bad roads with roads of the very best class.

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What strikes us most markedly in reading the book of the rocks is, not so much the strange forms which are portrayed in its pages, as the fact that so many of them are extinct. Indeed, except in the very newest of formations, it is extremely rare to come upon any forms which can even approximately be considered identical with any now living on the face of the earth. All are vanished species. What is more, when we once get clear of any formation, it is the rarest possible occurrence ever again to see any of the species of fossils characteristic of it. Each period of the world's history had its own fauna and flora—that is, its own assemblage of animals and plants—and once they disappear they are gone forever. Yet, within the historic period, we know of the extermination of only a few animals, and of no species of plants at all. Even then the extinct animals have, in every instance, met their fate at the hand of man. The dodo, a curious bird of Mauritius, and the solitaires, of the Islands of Reunion and Rodriguez, were exterminated by ruthless seamen within the last two centuries. The moa of New Zealand lived long after the Maoris reached these islands. The great auk and the Labrador duck have ceased to exist, from an identical cause, within the memory of man. The Philip Island parrot is a still more recent loss, while the only mammal which can be said for certain to have been utterly destroyed from off the face of the earth is the gigantic sea-cow (*Rhytina*), of Behring Strait, though, when it was first discovered, and took the taste of the seamen who liked oily beef, its numbers were small, and seemed on the wane. These, and a few other species of less interest, form the total extinctions of which history preserves any record. But in the rocks composing the earth's crust there are the remains of thousands which disappeared ages and ages before man came upon earth.—*Our Earth and its Story.*