

telegraphy and on which the system rests. To demonstrate the penetrating power of an electrical wave the Professor caused a heavy door to be closed between the lecture room and the place where the electrical instrument was placed that generated the wave. This obstruction caused no change in the signalling power of the wave, indeed, it was stated that a wave of electricity would pass through a wall some feet thick. This marvellous power renders wireless telegraphy so suitable for lighthouses and marine signal stations, as a dense fog, through which no rays of light could pass, presented no obstacle whatever to an electric wave. There was, however, at present, the grave difficulty of being unable to identify the signals of wireless telegraphy and which the lecturer thought would be overcome.

In dealing with the difficulty of preventing messages by the Marconi system becoming the common property of electrical receivers, he confirmed the explanation given in THE CHRONICLE, of 17th inst, as to the action of sympathetic waves of sound, which he illustrated by demonstrations with two tuning forks attached to resonators. The lecturer showed, that electrical waves, when started, flowed out in every direction, so that the idea of dispatching a wireless message like an arrow aimed at a target is quite erroneous. Professor Rutherford took part in wireless telegraph experiments at Cambridge, years before Mr. Marconi was known to be working in that field. He had no doubt of signals having been sent across the Atlantic and paid a handsome tribute to Marconi's genius and labours.

Professor Bovey stated that the audience was the largest ever assembled at McGill to hear a scientific lecture, and elicited the enthusiastic cheers of the students by expressing gratification at the College having so able a scientist as Professor Rutherford on the staff. Montreal is now fully justified in boasting that it has a scientific department connected with McGill, the equipment of which both, in professional talent and apparatus, is not surpassed, in some respects is not equalled, by any other university.

THE LATE MR. WILLIAM MACKENZIE

On the 21st inst. there past away Mr. Mackenzie of this city, after a brief illness. Mr. Mackenzie was born in Montreal in 1840. He became a telegraph operator, in which capacity he received the first message announcing the assassination of President Lincoln. The insight he gained into the operations caused by fluctuations in gold led him into the business of exchange broker. In 1877 he became a member of the Stock Exchange, where he was highly esteemed by his fellow members and those with whom he had business relations. Mr. Mackenzie leaves a widow and adopted daughter, who have the sympathy of a very wide circle.

PROMINENT TOPICS.

Wednesday last was the first anniversary of the death of Victoria the Beloved, the Revered, the Good, whose memory will ever be honoured, for, "The righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance." If ever a Monarch deserved this immortality of gratitude and love it was Queen Victoria. Since Her exchange of an earthly for a heavenly crown we have had new reasons for recognizing Her statesmanlike wisdom, and Her beneficent influence as a mother. The unity, the strength of the Empire has increased since the Queen's death through influences directly resulting from Her inspiration. The King, by following, as He promised, in the steps of his sainted mother, has strengthened the monarchy and a marvellous manifestation of Imperial unity has been brought out by the visit of the Heir Apparent to the great Colonies. The King learnt the wisdom he has displayed from the Queen, and the world-encircling tour of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, now Prince and Princess of Wales, was projected by Her late Majesty. England, the Empire, Humanity indeed, is the richer, the nobler, the more exalted by having such the memory of Queen Victoria as an example and inspiration.

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After a prolonged period of apparent apathy on the part of the public in regard to the troubles in South Africa, interest is reviving owing to there being indications of some arrangement being considered for the establishment of peace. Mr. Kuyper, Prime Minister of Holland, has been in London on business connected with the Boers. His visit is, involved in mystery, but it needs no wizard to see that the Prime Minister of Holland would not seek an interview with British officials merely to exchange gossiping phrases. His very distinction and the unusuality—to coin a word—of a Prime Minister entering the field of diplomacy by visiting a foreign country on a mission of some special nature, not suitable for the offices of his nation's ambassador, proves that such mission was one of great gravity. To suppose that Mr. Kuyper came to ask Great Britain to restore the Boers their independence is to insult his intelligence; he must know the decision of the British Government, and, with this knowledge admitted, he cannot have visited London except to make propositions for peace in accordance with the declared policy of England. There are gleams of light breaking out through the clouds; the deserted city of Johannesburg is being re-peopled, who are trading as of yore, not as securely, but as hopefully; the gold mines are about being re-opened; railway traffic is being resumed; in a number of small towns in the disturbed districts law and order have been re-established,