

The Dominion Illustrated.

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Botanists have rejoiced over flowers blossoming from seed found in soil where it had lain for thousands of years, and grain sprouting from the grave-cloths of Egyptian mummies, and now zoologists will have their turn on learning of the live toad found in railway diggings at Greenock. The toad is from 20,000 to 30,000 years old, as the clay bed whence it was taken belongs to the ice period. The mouth is closed, the nostrils breathe, and the eyes are bright, although they do not seem to see.

There is the Primrose League in England, in honour of the late Earl of Beaconsfield—best known as Benjamin Disraeli—and, in a like spirit, a number of French Royalist ladies have formed themselves into a body called the Rose of France. The aim of the gathering is mainly political, but its agencies will be really social, and a certain amount of influence will be exerted through literary and artistic channels. The Countess of Paris is president of the society, which may be set down as virtually an Orleanist engine.

We read in an exchange that Bedford, a beautiful little town in the Eastern Townships, has a ladies' Sidewalk Club, which raises money by public entertainment for the purposes indicated by its name. Now, what does that mean? What is this novelty we thus get from Bedford? We are left in the dark with respect to the purposes which the rather quaint name points out. Let us trust that some of our fair friends, either in Bedford or, what, perhaps, would be keener, some one from the rival towns or villages, will send us a word on the subject.

As a pendant to an editorial article of last week, on the half civilization of the American Negro and Indian, we may state that, in Brazil, in the valley of the Rio Doce, and only 250 miles from Rio Janeiro, there is a nook of land, hitherto almost unknown, wherein the natives go about in an utter state of nature, and are cannibals. It goes without saying that they have no worship at all akin to what we call religion. The country is a paradise of the tropics, and specially rich in rose wood. Being *senza veste* in a hot climate is passable enough, but the eating of man's flesh is distinctly uncivilized.

A Western orchardist claims that apples at \$1.50 a barrel are more profitable than wheat at 75 cents a bushel. That is a hireling's view of the difference between fruit and corn, but taken in another sense, it is true that there is much most wholesome nourishment in apples. There are thousands of farmer families that make a meal of baked apples, with bread and milk. Dumpings, or apples cooked whole in dough, are rich food. In New England they have "apple sass"

morn, noon and night, and cider is their beverage, those favoured mountainous states being the Normandy of America.

Even above the apple is the grape, not only as a food, but, furthermore, as a cure. Dr. Irving tells us that the quantity of sound grapes one may eat with impunity is something astonishing. Persons at the Continental Grape Cures consume from six to twelve pounds daily. Grapes constitute a perfect nutriment, which includes, in remarkable proportions, the nitrogenous albuminoid and respiratory principles indispensable to a good alimentation. According to the analysis of a French chemist, a striking analogy exists between the juice of the grape and woman's milk. Some of the affections which the grape may be used for, as a reparative medicinal agent of great value, are those arising from troubles in the digestive function and diseases of the liver.

W. Cameron, of Warton, in the County of Bruce, goes no two ways about it. He says that he has been in Canada for twenty-one years and in business. Two-thirds of the people are for Free Trade with all the world—Annexation, "never." Stop as we are for thirty or forty years longer, and then—Independence. Opposed to Imperial Federation because it would lead, in fifty years, to a general break-up of the Empire. Interests would be sure to clash. The fall of the Roman Empire would be nothing to it. Our friend must have bethought him of the famous words of Livy, in his preface: *Imperium Romanum magnitudine ruit sua*.

Very rightly, and, perhaps unconsciously, after Macaulay, the outspoken Bruce patriot makes the application at once. Within a hundred years, he is bold to foretell, the United States will be all "burst up" to half a dozen little kingdoms—(no, republics—there never will be kingdoms in America)—and Canada, if true to herself, will have a population of 50,000,000 by that time, and be the greatest nation on this continent. "Present policy, and lay low for ducks," quoth Mr. Cameron, as a parting shot.

While on this national question, it is worth while giving a paragraph to the wise and timely words of Lord Stanley, in reply to an address, at the Capital, the other day. His Excellency said that they must not hold narrow views, but be content to take matters as they found them. He for one was prepared to deal with matters as they arise. We must not fall into the error of throwing upon the shoulders of statesmen the whole burden of the difficulties with which they have to deal, although it is the people, or constitutional majority of the people, who determine great questions. He has observed since his arrival a disposition to look upon the interests of localities rather than the interest of the whole Dominion. We are not here for the benefit of one section, class or creed, and he trusted that all societies would put aside party prejudice and religious animosities.

In another column of this issue will be found a short account of the statue raised to the late Dr. Ryerson, at Toronto, in memory of the "Father of Education." To Ontario unquestionably belongs the credit of having led in the march of elementary teaching, and it is a matter of history that its record at the Philadelphia centennial, twelve years ago, was so brilliant and so widely acknowledged, that representative men from Japan and the East came to Toronto to study that

school system *in loco* and report to their Governments. Since that time the rest of the Dominion has pulled up, and our whole scheme of primary, secondary and intermediate instruction is now second to none anywhere.

The immigration returns for the year, up to date, are thoroughly satisfactory. Within a trifling fraction, the figures are at 70,000. While a good number stopped in the older Provinces, the bulk of the new-comers went to the North-West, where they belong, and where they are wanted in pursuance of the policy that built the Canadian Pacific Railway, bought the immense Hudson's Bay territory, and partitioned for settlement the Fertile Belt and the rich prairies of Alberta, Assiniboia, Athabasca and Saskatchewan.

British returns of immigration show another aspect of the case. There is a material decrease in this year's outflow from Britain to the United States, while to Canada it has increased in almost the same proportion. The correlation of attractive forces, as between the United States and Canada, is set as twelve to one in favour of the former, and yet the immigration to the United States is only five times greater than the immigration into Canada. Furthermore, the Dominion got more immigrants than Australia and all other colonies and countries together, except the United States.

OUR INLAND FISHERIES.

All over the Mississippi Valley and throughout the western states of the Union there is a scarcity of fish found in lakes, rivers and streams, and the consequence is that the people of those parts have to content themselves with the article imported from the East, either artificially kept on ice, or smoked and salted. We have heard people out there, who are dutiful to the rules of their church, complain bitterly that for them the Lenten time was a period of positive hardship.

There need be nothing of the kind in Canada, because our inland waters are as well supplied with fish as the bays and estuaries of our ocean shores and our deep sea itself. Indeed, while we are next to none other in the great sea-fish, such as the salmon, cod, mackerel and herring, it is safe to say that there is no country in the world so well supplied as we are with that most delicious article of food—the fresh-water fish. Take only one or two of our great lakes as instances. The Lake Winnipeg fisheries, this year, have been uncommonly plentiful. The white fish of these landlocked waters enjoys a wide fame. Last year \$100,000 worth was exported from the lake, and this year the total is expected to go up to \$150,000. Selkirk is the natural receiving and distributing centre, and it is there that the celebrated "freezers" for export purposes are found. Selkirk owes this advantage to its position as the head of low water navigation. No less than nine steamers ply between Lake Winnipeg and Red River—that is, between the fishing stations on the lake and the town of Selkirk. Lumber divides the cargoes of these boats along with fish, but the bulk of the carrying trade is in the latter. A number of barges are also used as supplementary to the steamboats. This business gives employment to a host of men, among whom are many Indians, who are excellent fishermen, as well as accomplished raftsmen.

The wealth of the fisheries of Lake Superior is simply unknown. Those immense waters have