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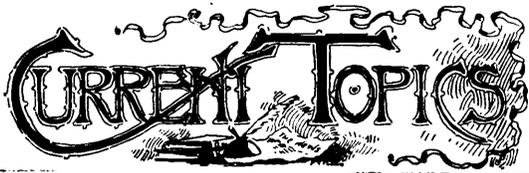
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While Central and South America are showing their willingness to enter into closer commercial relations with the United States, Australia and Japan are suing for an extension of the trade between themselves and the Dominion. Mr. Wm. McIlwraith, or Rockhampton, Queensland, a gentleman whose name has long been one of influence in the colony that he represents, is at present in Canada for the purpose of collecting information as to the resources and manufactures of the Dominion, and for ascertaining for what products of Australasia might reasonably be expected to find a market in Canada. Mr. McIlwraith, who is a journalist and the proprietor of two important newspapers, has lived for several years in the Greater Britain of the Antipodes, and takes an eager interest in the destinies of his adopted country. The completion of our trans-continental line and the supplemental projects of direct steamship and telegraphic communication with Australia have drawn the attention of the latter to Canada as a market and source of supply. Mr. McIlwraith seems to expect much from the completion of these great schemes. The alternate telegraph line he deems of the utmost importance, not merely from the standpoint of commerce, but as a welcome addition to the Empire's provisions for defence. As for the mail steamers, he thinks the policy of establishing the line was not adopted a moment too soon in the interests both of the Mother Country and the Colonies.

The importance of Australia's trade Mr. McIlwraith illustrated by figures which confirm the instructive statistics already given in Mr. Hopkins' articles, published some months ago in this journal. He mentioned as commodities which, with a little effort Canada might supply to Queensland, boots and shoes, drapery and haberdashery, fish of all kinds, furniture, hardware and ironmongery, woollen goods, machinery and matches, and in return Canada might have hides, wool, raw sugar, and other articles which Queensland could advantageously furnish. The labour difficulty was a great drawback to the sugar industry in Queensland, and the trouble was aggravated by political controversy. It was, moreover, complicated, on the one hand, by humanitarians at a distance who did not understand the circumstances of the colony, and on the other by jealousies between the white workmen and the Polynesians imported by the planters. A system of central mills has, however, been lately tried, and if it succeeds, the output of sugar will be largely increased. In that case Mr. McIlwraith believes that Canada might find it to her advantage to get her sugar direct from Queensland.

The Japanese envoy, Mr. Sugimur, has been entrusted with a mission similar to that of Mr. McIlwraith. He also speaks hopefully, though with less detail, of the profit that may be naturally expected from the extension of the commercial relations between Canada and Japan. It is surely a promising coincidence that these gentlemen, one from the new world of the South Pacific, and the other from the ancient land of the dawn so recently disclosed to the wondering eyes of western civilization, should be prosecuting at the same time enquiries in the issue of which we are so deeply concerned.

We have not yet learned the full results of the experiments in sugar beet growing, which were by many looked upon as likely to decide the question. It would, indeed, be rash to base the practicability of such an industry in Canada on one year's or two years' or even five years' experiments. When Germany began to try her hand at beet culture for sugar making purposes, her men of science went all astray and prophets of evil were not wanting to decry any further attempt as waste of time and money. But there were men of research who had the great gift of patience—a gift in which the Germans excel—and they persevered until triumph crowned their efforts. And now Germany is at the head of the nations in this profitable industry. Last year the 391 German factories found use for 6,983,960 tons of beets and produced (exclusive of molasses), 910,698 tons of raw sugar. Let Canada only copy Germany's example and she, too, perhaps will succeed. Experts say that our soil and climate are favorable. We have an experimental farm, expressly for the purpose of shedding light on such questions as these, and if the thing is possible, Mr. Saunders may be trusted to show how it can be made worth while to engage in beet culture in Canada.

Health, strength, grace, presence of mind—these are the gems that calisthenics yield, as, indeed, the word implies, and as Captain Clarke's exhibition proved. Beauty and strength, twin boons, which it was once the morbid fashion to keep apart, may be happily and, by remembering and practising well taught lessons, permanently united. How much this may mean to the daughters of men is suggested by a very saddening article recently published in the *St. James' Gazette*. It is headed "The Curse of Cosmetics." Therefrom it appears that the ruinous fashion of producing complexions by art is so prevalent at the present time in England that neither warning, nor satire, nor denunciation can influence those ladies who, by the use of paint, try to increase their personal attractions. It might be thought, says the *Gazette*, that the physical ills thence resulting might, when pointed out, be sufficiently alarming to act as a deterrent. Yet the knowledge of the consequences seems to have little effect on those who indulge in the pernicious custom. Among these consequences are "the premature aging of the face in consequence of the slow death of the outer skin, the transformation of this delicate covering into a hard, yellow, wrinkled substance, which almost simulates the lines of death and which gradually becomes incapable of effective disguise." There are, moreover, "the perpetual discomfort under which the foolish woman must labour, the irritation which contracts her skin, and the long and weary hours of the toilet, the self-control necessary to restrain the facial muscles from undue exertion, the care with which she must avoid the risks of exposure to July sun or November rain.

Nor is this all. Death itself may intervene from the clogging of the pores and consequent interference with the natural action of the body. Blood poisoning may ensue from the use of metallic compounds and the end will come in great agony." Now, calisthenics, under proper direction, make resort to such baneful artifices not only needless and hateful, but impossible. The professor of physical culture is, therefore, not only a hygienic and æsthetic, but, in a very real sense, a moral reformer. And it is well with countries like Canada in which he is held in repute.

The harvest this year in the Province of Quebec has, according to the bulletin of the Department of Agriculture, been much more favorable than previous reports from various localities had given reason to expect. The estimate of the wheat crop is from twenty to thirty bushels per acre; that of the barley harvest is an equally favourable average, while buckwheat is set down at from twenty to twenty-five, and oats at from twenty-five to forty bushels per acre. The fruit has, as was foreseen, generally proved a failure, though parts of the province (especially where care and judgment were used) are happy exceptions to the rule. Potatoes leave much to be desired, but other root crops were, on the whole, fairly good. The hay crop is also favourably reported on. Compared with Ontario's harvest, that of Quebec has the advantage in wheat. In the matter of fruit the record is about the same in both provinces. On the whole the Minister of Agriculture and the province are to be congratulated on the result.

The published report on the state of the Citadel Rock, which the city engineer of Quebec addressed ten years ago to the Minister of Public Works, is quite a long document. In view of the recent disaster, it has a historical value beyond what is attached to most papers of a civic or departmental character. It contains a number of recommendations, of the nature of which the public had already been informed. It is, as we said before, deplorable that a tragedy like the late land-slide should be turned to partisan uses. The loss of so many lives in a manner so inexpressibly sad is the least fitting of occasions for the strife of parties. The gist of Mr. Baillargé's report is the suggestion of a range of buttresses of solid stone and cement, five feet broad at base and tapering to four at the top, the height being eighty feet. Mr. Baillargé seems to have had strong faith in this plan as a safeguard against rock-slides. As a less costly alternative, which would satisfy public opinion and the parties especially interested, he proposed the construction of a retaining wall 675 feet long, on the line of Champlain street, and the filling of the crevices with cement. He expressed himself inclined to favour the second plan which, while averting danger for a long time to come, would allow of certain needed improvements being carried out. Besides, it would not prevent the buttresses being added, if necessary, at a subsequent date. At Mr. Baillargé's request, the two schemes were submitted to the engineers of the Public Works Department, who agreed with himself in preferring the alternative plan.

The meeting of the American Institute of Mining Engineers at Ottawa is an event of considerable significance. The range of interest covered by the deliberations of this learned and important body embraces the whole continent north of the Gulf of Mexico. The mineral resources of the United States have in recent years undergone remarkable