

PROMINENT TOPICS.

H. R. H. PRINCE ARTHUR OF CONNAUGHT, paid a short visit to Montreal this week, where he honoured the Horse Show by his presence, inspected the Cadet Corps of the city, and held an informal reception at the City Hall.

The Prince is on his way home from a visit to the Emperor and Empire of Japan, where he had a magnificent reception by the Court and the people. He represented his royal uncle, King Edward, in a function in which he conferred the Order of the Garter upon the Mikado as a mark of distinction to indicate how highly the British Empire appreciates the alliance with Japan. The Prince impressed all who had the privilege of coming in personal contact with him as highly intelligent and amiable, with the gift of ingratiating himself in the good opinions of all classes, which is a characteristic of the Royal Family. To have been entrusted with so important a diplomatic mission as representing the King and the British Government at the Imperial Court of Japan in his 23rd year shows His Royal Highness to have mental qualities in advance of his years. His replies to formal addresses were most tactful and full of happy expressions of his appreciation of Canadian hospitality and loyalty, as well as recognition of the attractions and prospects of Canada. In bidding adieu to what he styled this, "Commercial metropolis," the Prince said:

"I have spent upwards of six weeks in this country and have travelled by rail more than 7,000 miles. Everywhere have I found a prosperous and contented people, applying themselves resolutely to the task of building up this continent, under the flag of England, a great and powerful nation."

He wished the Canadian people "all prosperity and happiness," which, we trust, will be the lot of Prince Arthur of Connaught. After such an unceasing round of public functions he, no doubt, will enjoy the voyage home.

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THE MONTREAL CADETS.—Prince Arthur, when first catching a glimpse of the Cadet corps in the Champ de Mars, exclaimed, "My stars! how well they look." This voiced the opinions and feelings of the thousands who witnessed their evolutions. The Highland Cadet Corps in their new uniforms especially were a very picturesque and highly interesting sight. The other corps were also a most creditable exhibition of military neatness and drill. Such organizations deserve liberal support. The influence of drill and discipline is invaluable as tending to form habits of precision, of obedience to constituted authority, of devotion to public duties, and respect for superiors, which ennoble citizenship and strengthen the State.

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TORONTO'S BUDGET.—The financial statement for Toronto just issued shows that \$3,064,014 will be raised by taxation in ensuing year and \$1,407,507, be derived from other sources. The rate is fixed at 18½ mills on the dollar. The bonded debt of the city on 31st December last, was \$24,066,016, from which the sinking funds being deducted leaves \$17,476,787 as the net debt of Toronto. Of this sum \$10,440,815 was expended in works and services that are revenue-producing, or specially rated.

DOMINION FINANCES.—The revenue for first 8 months of 1905-6, shows a large increase. The customs receipts were \$37,507,464, against \$33,747,857, Excise, \$11,537,021, as compared with \$10,291,884, Post office, \$4,744,885, against \$4,106,293, and Public Works, etc., \$10,018,987, as compared with \$8,984,475. The total revenue to 30th April, being \$63,808,359, which is \$6,677,848 larger than in previous term of fiscal year. The expenditure shows an increase of \$4,341,433.

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MINERS WILL NOT STRIKE.—The committee who control the actions of the miners in the coal districts of Pennsylvania, have decided not to organize a strike. Mr. Mitchell, who seems to exercise autocratic power over the miners, in an address to a convention of them said:

"If I were sure a strike would be successful that you could win, that you would stand together, I would advise you to strike and stay away from work until we got better conditions. But I know many among us are not in sympathy with the strike movement."

It is quite a different thing for a miner to throw himself out of work and wages, and for a strike organizer to be drawing double and treble the earnings of a miner solely to act as a "Boss" of a strike. The men "are not in sympathy with the strike movement" because numbers of them have not yet recovered from the effects of the last strike.

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EARTHQUAKES IN CANADA.—The San Francisco calamity seems to have caused some of our old country friends to be anxious about earthquakes in Canada. There is an old story, not authentic by any means, that a writer commenced a chapter on, "The Snakes of Ireland" by the declaration, "There are no snakes in Ireland." A chapter on "Earthquakes in Canada" might be opened with a parallel assertion, as Canadian earthquakes are almost unknown. Certainly the intervals between the earth-tremors in this country, which it is a gross exaggeration to call earthquakes, are very wide, far more so than in England, and these rare events in the Dominion are very transient and cause no damage.

There is no parallel in Canadian history to the record of an earthquake in London in 1580 which caused part of St. Paul Cathedral and the Temple churches to fall. In 1750, 1852, 1871, 1884, 1885, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1892, 1893, 1896, and later, earthquakes occurred in England and Scotland, the one in 1884 wrecking churches, damaging houses, and killing several victims.

The only Canadian earthquake recorded in a list of 165 historic ones occurred at Montreal in November, 1893, which passed without inflicting any damage. As a matter of fact and record Canada is singularly blessed in this, as in many other respects, being exceptionally free from earthquakes. Cold climates seem more immune from such disturbances than warmer ones.

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CHIEF CAMPEAU is entitled to public commendation for raiding premises in which a prize fight was in progress. Athletic games and prize fighting are directly opposite to each other in their purpose and results. Athletic exercises, properly conducted, develop physical strength and promote