

kill birds of any kind. These big, heavy-winged birds are killed at every opportunity, and yet they are among the best friends the farmer has. They live on mice, toads, frogs, squirrels, and snakes, and the rough-legged variety is particularly spoken of by Mr. Nash as a blessing to the country. He estimates that each marsh hawk eats six field mice every day he is in the Province.—Free Press, London, Ont.

Undoubtedly the two animals showing the closest approach to human intelligence, so far as social organization and harmonious co-operation for the common welfare are concerned, are the ant and the beaver, according to a Rochester writer. Many wonderful stories of the brain-work displayed by ants have been told, and here is one about a colony of beavers on the Aroostook River, in Maine, near the village of Caribou. They have built a dam of logs and mud 250 feet long, turning the river back upon the lowlands for a distance of three miles, and thus creating a great lake. The account of their operation says: "Trees a foot in diameter have been cut down by the beavers, the branches trimmed off, and the trunks in some mysterious manner brought to the dam and submerged. The dam is better than many on the river that have been built by men, and the Caribou people are rather proud of it. Over 1,000 beavers have worked hard on this job for several months, and they will be allowed to remain in possession all winter." This, we are told, is "instinct."

Those beavers are certainly practical engineers and mechanics, as well as marvels of intelligent in-

dustry. How did they learn their trade?—Educational Gazette.

The New York Tribune has some good and truthful words for Canada. It is not often that we have the pleasure of printing such kind words from our cousins south of the line. The Tribune says:

The popular idea that the climate of Western Canada is severe has been a serious obstacle to its development. It is true the winters are cold, but not much more so than in Minnesota and the Dakotas. On the other hand, the warm chinook winds from the west make Canada, especially Alberta, distinctly more temperate than some of the north-western states. The equable climate of Alberta is highly praised by all Americans who have settled in it, and its Rocky Mountain resorts, such as Banff, Glacier, and Field, are patronized largely by Americans, especially by sufferers from hay fever. Even where the winters are found to be severe there is an offset in the fact that the days in summer are long, and vegetation thus gets a great deal of sunlight. As to the general conditions of the country—climatic, social, and political—the Journal prints signed letters from former citizens of the northwestern States, who declare that they are entirely satisfied. The laws are just, the taxation is light, and churches and schools are being rapidly built. Many Americans, indeed, who have taken farms are growing rich, and even farm laborers find steady employment at good wages. Moreover, in Western Canada there is hardly a trace of that narrow provincialism even yet to be found occasionally in Eastern Canada, which fondly cherishes the old