



THE PHILOSOPHER

This is to be a year of record-breaking growth of that many-branched, wide-spreading vine of steel, which is extending itself over Western Canada, throwing out new branches and shoots all the time. That

Railway Building in the West.

network of Railways, radiating from Winnipeg, and growing every year as vigorously as if it were the product of the fertile prairie soil — as indeed it is — will grow this year as it has never grown before. The C.P.R. and the G.T.P., as also the Canadian Northern and Great Northern have a heavy year's work of construction planned and provided for, which will involve, all told, the expenditure of some \$40,000,000, and the employment of many thousands of men. The close of the year will see Western Canada provided with a greatly increased total of railway mileage, including two new main lines from Winnipeg to Edmonton, one of them double-tracked for a considerable portion of the way, and many new extensions. The year's work will also include the completion of the double-tracking of the C.P.R. from Winnipeg to Fort William. It is to be in every way a year of greatly increased development for Western Canada, meaning the pouring in of new settlers, more tall, red, hump-shouldered elevators where the settlements cluster into villages, more trade in the towns, a big increase in the output and the business of the whole country, a great advance in Western Canada's ever-advancing growth and prosperity.

At the present rate of occupation, every acre of good public land in the United States will have been taken up in fifteen years! And where will the newcomers to the adjoining Republic then find farms? A generation ago, if a man had made such a

James J. Hill's Forecast.

forecast and gone on to speak of the fertility of the soil of the Western States becoming impaired by wasteful methods of agriculture, he would have been derided. But now our neighbors are called upon to listen to warning words from an alarmist who says that while the remnant of land available for agriculture in the Republic is fast decreasing, wasteful methods throughout the greater part of the Western States have lessened materially the element of fertility in the soil. And who, it may be asked, is this alarmist? One whose words, it must be admitted, carry weight. He is no other than James J. Hill, the railway president. In a recent address at St. Paul, which is attracting widespread attention, he computes that in 1950 the population of the United States will be upwards of 200,000,000. Do the actual conditions of the country give sure promise that such a population will be able to win a livelihood? Mr. Hill has grave doubts on the subject. He admits that in the past the United States had no difficulty in supplying the means of subsistence to a growing population, but he points out that in those times there was a vast area of unoccupied land. Whatever may be thought of Mr. Hill's view of the future, it must be admitted that he is too practical a man to speak in such a strain, except after serious consideration.

While it cannot be claimed that our divorce law in Canada is so perfect as to be incapable of improvement, it is immeasurably superior to the divorce laws in certain States across the border. The Dominion

South Dakota and Divorce.

has not a uniform divorce law from ocean to ocean; in British Columbia and New Brunswick divorce is a matter of Provincial jurisdiction, while throughout the rest of Canada it is under the jurisdiction of the Senate at Ottawa, and the obtaining of a divorce is a costly proceeding, and, unless there are just grounds, an impossible one. It is notorious that certain States bid for "divorce colonies" by extending greater facilities for divorce than other States furnish. It is also notorious that there are lawyers who will stoop very low indeed to get business. These two facts are brought into noteworthy relationship with each other in a circular issued by an enterprising firm of lawyers in a certain State. The circular sums up as follows the advantages offered by that State to those seeking divorce:—

- "The shortest period of residence, viz.: six months.
- "The greatest number of grounds, viz.: seven separate and distinct grounds.
- "The simplest and least difficult grounds to prove.
- "No delays after time for defendant to answer has expired, our courts being always in session to hear testimony in uncontested cases.
- "Under the charge of extreme cruelty plaintiff may allege and prove producing mental anguish and threatening health.
- "Under the practice of our courts, where no real contest exists parties are not subject to embarrassing cross-examinations.
- "In all uncontested cases parties may, on application of counsel, have hearing conducted in private chambers of judge and thereby avoid embarrassing publicity and exposure to the public.
- "Unlike the practice and rule in most states, the sole testimony of the plaintiff without corroborative proofs is sufficient to establish the allegations of the complaint in all undefended actions.
- "A decree absolute is granted immediately after proofs are

submitted, so that the party receiving the same may marry again at once, and is not obliged to wait for any period thereafter, as is the law in many states."

What more could any Turk who wished to give the slip to one wife and get another as speedily as possible, ask than this? The applicant has only to live in the State six months, divorces are granted on almost any pretext, the courts are accessible for private hearings at any time, the testimony of the applicant, unsupported by corroboration is all that is required, and the applicant can marry again the minute after the decree is signed. He can have a new wife every few months if he pleases, and has the price to pay the lawyers and the courts, which appear to be more than willing to oblige the polygamously inclined. Surely the moral sense of the majority of the people of that State will prevail ere long and wipe out the blot upon their States name due to such laws, such courts and such lawyers!

Mr. Hill, by the way, is one of the captains of industry and rulers of finance in the United States who are Canadians by birth. There are others. Just as Americans by birth are to be found in many walks of

Canadians in the States

life in this country, so are Canadians by birth to be found in many walks of life in the United States. An article on "Canadians in the United States" in the Political Science Quarterly bears flattering testimony to the sons and daughters of the Dominion in the Republic. It has been generally asserted that there are some two million Canadians in the United States. The last census, however, showed the number to be 819,264 of the age of ten years and over. The census figures also showed 40 per cent. of that number to be engaged in manufacturing, 20 per cent. in personal service, 18 per cent. in trade and transportation, 12 per cent. in agriculture and 4½ per cent. in the professions. The Quarterly writer thinks it remarkable that so many Canadians should occupy high positions in the United States as teachers, college professors and clergymen; a brilliant list of names is given not only in these lines, but in railway management and other business pursuits. It is noted that a great number of Canadian girls of a superior class have gone to the United States. Of recent years, however, the number of Canadians settling in the United States has dropped from its former ratio of advance.

A writer in one of the Winnipeg papers has been lamenting recently that "the reading of books has declined." Whether that lament is justified, may be questioned; but there can be no question of the justice of the complaint that is made in regard to the flood of trashy novels pouring from the publishers' presses. There are

The Reading of Books.

good novels being published right along. But the trashy ones outnumber them vastly. To raise an outcry against all novels would be absurd. The novel, more quickly and powerfully than any other kind of literature, transports the reader to new scenes, and furnishes recreation in the true sense. The choice of recreation depends largely upon circumstances best known to the individual. Dull, monotonous and sedentary occupations might call for some more lively recreation than poring over the pages of a book. Some very good people do not care for reading at all. But it would be really deplorable if a generation should grow up in ignorance of the pleasure and profit of systematic reading of standard books. No system of education can rightly be considered complete which does not teach boys and girls how and what to read.

The Philosopher has been reading the little book entitled "Optimism" by Mr. Horace Fletcher, the theorist on diet and advocate of prolonged chewing and "physiologic swallowing" of every morsel of food. Of food theories there seems to be no end. Unprepared wheat

Diet Theories and Health Fads

is guaranteed, according to one theorist, to increase amiability and brighten our outlook upon life. Rice stewed in peanut oil, according to another, stimulates the reasoning faculties. A diet of walnuts, says a third, is favorable to the growth of courage. Thus may every virtue find its specific dietary basis, and every vice its vegetable cure. The school of modern dieticians approach the spirit through the body. The school of modern psychic healing approaches the body through the spirit. To the latter spirit is the only real form, whereas to Mr. Fletcher and other hygienic reformers it is that which justifies the body and its uses. But is not this whole matter of perfect health, in a way, largely overdone? A fair measure of good health we must all have and do our best to attain; but might not perfect health make mere existence in itself so pleasant as to destroy all incentive to useful effort? A vast amount of the world's greatest work has been

done by men who suffered from chronic ill-health. It would be easy to cite a long list of invalids who achieved greatness in the field of intellect; but let us consider the field of action. Napoleon's health was never good; and to what four men does the British Empire owe more than to Clive, who won India for it, Wolfe, who won Canada, Nelson, who established the British mastery of the sea, and Cecil Rhodes, the "Empire-builder"? All four were sickly boys; and, except the last — who went out to Africa for his health's sake, and benefited by the climate, but was never of robust health — all had wretched health during their whole lives.

In New York city not long ago an old man who was pelted with snowballs by a gang of boys, fell on the sidewalk, and died. The boys did not intend to kill him, needless to say; but does that lessen by so very much, after all, the cruelty of their pelting an aged, infirm man? It is an old saying that a boy is apt to have something of the barbarian in him; and it is true that there is in some children, unless it is checked and educated, a tendency to cruelty to animals, and to new companions, and to those who attract attention either by defects or by something else that strikes them as novel, or abnormal. But when some one points out gently to such a child the unkindness, unfairness and wrong of such treatment of others, the response is usually quick and strong. The immense influence of such books as "Black Beauty" and "Beautiful Joe" is an illustration of this truth. The duty of kindness and consideration for the aged ought to be strongly impressed upon the young and made a prominent feature of moral instruction in the schools.

Kindness to the Aged.

It is to be hoped that the Dominion Government will deal paternally with the Eskimos who are under its jurisdiction, and in whom it is just now showing a special interest. Eskimo statistics are little more than bold guesses, but it is pretty well agreed that out of the total of 40,000 Eskimos not more than 6,000 are in Canada, and 2,000 of these are in Labrador, under Newfoundland administration. The large colony of 10,000 in Greenland is pretty well looked after by the Danish authorities. The majority of the race are in Alaska and on the Asiatic coast of Behring Strait. As with all native races, contact with the white man has not been to the advantage of the Eskimos. Even the white man's gift of superior weapons has proved no advantage. The Eskimos had developed in the course of ages instruments and tactics quite adequate to their needs, without being needlessly destructive; the gun has enabled them to destroy the scanty herds of deer upon which they partially maintained themselves at all times, and which, now that their other sources of food supply, the whale and seal, are failing them on account of the activity of the white whalers and sealers, have assumed for them now a far greater importance than of old. It is not pleasant to think that a people whose colonization of the frozen North is as great a victory of human energy and ingenuity as perhaps history can show, should have triumphed over nature only to be in danger now of succumbing to civilization.

The marriages of United States to titles on the other side of the Atlantic are not the only form of proof there is that there are people under the Stars and Stripes who share the fairly general human liking for titles and decorations. It is a liking not at all confined to the gentler sex. The German Emperor has been notably lavish in distributing decorations in the United States. The order of the Red Eagle has several classes, each with its own individual bauble and ribbon; this enables him to discriminate according to a nicely graduated scale, from a prince to a peasant, from a Sultan to a plain citizen of a republic. All the lesser potentates of Europe, whose revenues are restricted, make a business of disposing of titles, orders, stars and crosses. Occasionally the decorations represent services rendered. President Roosevelt has just transmitted to Congress a long list of officials of the United States Government, on whom crowned heads have bestowed decorations and presents, with a recommendation that they be allowed to accept them, out of respect for the powers granting them. He has added a supplementary list of those to whom Congress on former occasions failed to grant the desired permission.

In Regard to the Eskimos.

The notable anti-liquor movement on this continent has its counterpart in Europe. In Great Britain, in France and in Russia this movement is of unprecedented proportions. It is due chiefly to an awakening to the destructive effect of alcohol on national efficiency. Startling figures have been recently brought forward of the prevalence of the drinking habit among the British factory population, even among women. France attributes to alcoholism her stationary population and increase of crime. In Russia alcohol is mainly responsible for the peasant's poverty, his shiftlessness and his incapacity to withstand disease. The war against alcohol is, from a governmental standpoint, an unprofitable one in the sense that it means a lopping away of a main source of existing revenues; that it has nevertheless been declared argues the growing impetus of moral forces.

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The War on Alcohol.

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