

## NORTH-WEST NOTES.

## WINNIPEG.

If real prosperity be the primary aim of the Government of our or any other country, and the coveted destiny of a nation, then it only requires a visit to Southern Manitoba and to that part of Northern Dakota bordering on the international boundary to satisfy one that under the present rule this north-western portion of the disjointed Confederation of the Dominion can never attain to success, handicapped as it is by the discriminating tariff. The following list of retail prices at Emerson, Manitoba, and Pembina, Dakota, three miles south of the line, will illustrate more forcibly than words can do, the advantage that Northern Dakota, our great rival, has over Manitoba:

	Emerson.	Pembina.
Sugar, granulated, per lb.....	\$0 10 to \$0 00	\$0 09 to \$0 00
Canned Fruit, 2 lb. cans, each....	0 20 to 0 00	0 18 to 0 00
Canned Vegetables, 2 lb. cans, each	0 20 to 0 00	0 15 to 0 00
Hams, per lb.....	0 18 to 0 20	0 17 to 0 00
Bacon, per lb.....	0 15 to 0 00	0 12½ to 0 00
Cheese, per lb.....	0 18 to 0 20	0 18 to 0 00
Flour, per 100 lbs.....	2 75 to 3 50	2 75 to 3 25
Tea, per lb.....	0 40 to 0 70	0 35 to 0 50
Tobacco, per lb.....	0 45 to 0 75	0 50 to 0 55
Rasins, per lb.....	0 10 to 0 15	0 10 to 0 00
Dried Apples, per lb.....	0 12½ to 0 15	0 10 to 0 00
Coffee (green), per lb.....	0 19 to 0 20	0 16 to 0 18
Grey Cottons, 36 inches wide....	0 08 to 0 12½	0 07 to 0 10
Prints, English.....	0 08 to 0 15	0 00 to 0 00
Common inch pine boards, per M	24 00 to 28 00	20 00 to 24 00

It does not require much investigation to ascertain the effects created by the figures set forth in the above table. Coupled with the railway policy of the Government, it has driven thousands of people across the line, so that Northern Dakota and Southern Manitoba are occupied almost wholly by Canadians, and a visitor who knew not of the existence of the boundary could not possibly determine which was the Canadian and which the American side. Thus it will be seen that, away up in this northern country, the boundary is practically ignored, and the people on either side of it have become one people with common interests. True, there are thousands of American immigrants and migrants crossing into Dakota, but they heed not the presence of the Canadians, nor do they regard with any degree of jealousy the Canadians who have virtually taken possession of a large portion of the State and are thriving therein. On the contrary, the people are readily connected with that bond of unity born of identical interests. Hundreds of the Canadians who possess farms in Dakota are also the proprietors of homesteads in Southern Manitoba. They secured the latter first, but at the expiration of three years, having secured their patents and become weary for the long-promised railway facilities, they have mortgaged their Manitoba possession and crossed the line, where they have secured other homesteads and pre-emption from the American Government. Their intention is to sell their Manitoba farms just so soon as prices which will in a measure recoup them for the time and money spent can be secured. It is well known that the mortgage and loan companies hold a lien upon almost one-half of the farms in Southern Manitoba.

Thus it will be seen that the Dominion Government by its crass policy has set in motion a force which is operating strongly in the direction of what every man who observes closely must acknowledge to be the ultimate destiny of Canada—union with the Republic. The people living on either side of the boundary have almost forgotten its existence, and the children growing up seem surprised on hearing that such a line exists. No further evidence than that contained in the table given above is required to show the folly of observing the line when nothing can be shown to exist which would militate against the interests of the people were it wiped out. Sentiment, say the expatriated Canadians, is all very good; but, to use a familiar phrase, "it don't buy the child a dress." A full outfit of agricultural implements costs \$100 less south of the line than it does north of it.

Commercial union is spoken of as likely to prove preferable to absolute union; but the opinion of the settler is different. The tide of English capital has been turned from this country, the success of which must depend upon the early construction of railways, and the establishment of as many outlets and inlets as possible. The true development of the country the settler has already recognized must be by as much railway connection with the States as possible. The policy pursued at present must be recognized to be the damming up of the proper channel of a large river to endeavour to induce the water to cross a mountain range and flow down another valley. If the dam is built high enough, or, to make the metaphor more plain, if the tariff is raised sufficiently high, feeble streams may flow over the mountain into another valley; but the pressure will become too great some day, the long pent up waters will gather force, and when occasion offers, or the dam weakens, the crisis will cause the artificial barrier to be swept away, and the volume of water will pour down its natural channel. The settler sees that the natural channel through which the resources of this country should flow is the valley to the South, nor does it require any stronger visual power to observe that the channel through which the necessities of the country should come is the one used to convey the products of the country hence.

A not insignificant force, which has been at work at the leveling process in this country for a number of years, is the large number of Americans employed on our railways. As the Canadians were totally ignorant of railroading in a prairie country, Americans had to be employed to operate the systems now in existence here. It is estimated that not less than ten thousand men, including those working on the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the far West, are living in this country. They have

exerted a subtle influence upon those with whom they came into daily contact. Not understanding thoroughly the cause of the drawbacks in the country, but perceiving the disadvantage at which settlers are placed here, they have been earnest and most effectual emigration agents.

Under the existing state of affairs Manitoba, through the Dominion Government, is engaged in an unequal contest with Dakota and Minnesota. The payment of the heavy duty on American goods is the alternative which the settler has between buying goods in Toronto or Montreal and paying the heavy rate of transportation. He is also placed at this disadvantage with what he has to sell; instead of sending it down the natural channel to be disposed of in the American market, he is obliged to pay the heavy cost of transporting it to the markets of Eastern Canada. R.

## RONDEAU.

QUICK as a flash the leap from life  
Took place. He had just kissed the maid,  
Way in the valley's deepest shade.  
Queer time for Death to bring Love strife—  
To come with his life-cutting knife.

Queer time to make such *breathless* raid:  
Taken away when bliss was rife.  
Bolt follow'd kiss, I heard it said,  
Quick as a flash.

Now, over Styx, he calls her *Jade*;  
Living, he would have called her *Wife*.  
As country clown is caught by life  
New man she catches in kisses to wade.  
Trust woman? trust winds I would as lief,  
Quick as a flash.

THE IRISH PEASANT POET.

## A CONVERSION.

[From the French of Thomas Bentzon.]

VI.

IN the afternoon of the same day Vicar Fulgentius found himself upon the road, when he caught the sound of the gentle trotting of a horse and the rumbling of a light vehicle. It was the doctor. He waited, as he required to speak to him. Soon the old white mare came out of the turning on which he had kept his eyes fixed. Her driver continued to advance with an unheeding look.

"A fine day, doctor!" said he, from a distance—"weather that should cure invalids."

"Yes, if it did not kill them," interrupted the physician, who had stopped his horse. "I have nothing left to do at La Préé. Those folk have hardly any interest for you, your Reverence; they are not your parishioners. All the same you will own that it is cruel to lose a girl of twenty-three, who is passing away just like a rose shedding its petals, without one's knowing what wind is carrying them off. Look here! after thirty years' practice we have a proud contempt of medical science which leaves us ignorant of so many matters. She dies consumptive, that is all I can say. What fine progress in knowledge! Merely to name the evil that one has known neither how to forestall nor to cure!"

"She is dying, then? The young girl is dying? That is certain, is it?" asked the Vicar, musingly. He only wished to know one thing: whether he was led to this bold step by the gravity of the circumstances.

"To-morrow all may be over; but this pitiful condition may also last a week or even longer. Last evening I thought she would not see the sun rise to-day: she had the most terrible crisis! Her mother spoke vaguely of something's having agitated her. So fragile as she is, everything agitates her, everything upsets her, a breath of wind is enough! She vibrates like glass, and she will shatter like it, too, poor child!"

"Truthfully, you have no more hopes then?" repeated the Vicar, with strange emphasis.

"Yes, indeed! the hope of a speedy end that she will not feel approach. These struggles of youth with death are horrible. . . . Now I am going off to see, just to ascertain that he is in admirable health, the old farmer of La Petite-Croix, who will be a hundred next Easter. What a mockery! His children have long since grown tired of looking after him; they confine themselves to keeping him alive by feeding him with a few crusts! And he lives; while others die as soon as their spring-time has begun. . . . I had to warn the unfortunate parents. They have known it for months past; but the unexpected favourable turns that characterize these kinds of malady are so deceitful! One is so ready to believe that the battles in which the dying person appears to snatch back existence will have a victorious issue. The father, whilst mourning over it, thought it only a languor which it would be possible to overcome. Now he lays the blame on me; and he offers me half of all he possesses in exchange for the life of his daughter. Oh! if health would let itself be bought, there is a hussy who would beggar the world. The mother says nothing; she has, I think, worn out her trouble. Poor things! How one longs, in the face of such woes, that science were a power in good earnest."

The doctor stroked his mare with the whip, and off she set at her jog-trot again, whilst Vicar Fulgentius walked on towards La Préé.