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JOHN CAMERON, President and

Managing Dir.

God is in His heaven.

All's right with the world.

—Browning.

London, Thursday, May 20, 1897.

Visit of the Minister of Education

Few visitors to London meet with a

warmer welcome than Hon. George W.

Ross, Minister of Education, who has

for the last few days been tarrying

with his daughter, Mrs. (Dr.) Belton,

and who this afternoon left for Strat-

ford, to take his usual annual holiday

among his constituents. It has been

reported that the object of the present

trip of the minister was two-fold: 1.

That he came to choose a site for the

new Normal School in London; and (2)

that he was going to West Middlesex

because an immediate general election

for the province was contemplated.

The wisecracks, in both instances, are

mistaken. The construction of the new

Normal School will be begun on the

best available site next spring, and it

will be a credit to the city, and to

the province; therefore, the question of

site is not a pressing one.

As to the general election, it is yet

some distance off. Neither Mr. Ross

nor any other of his colleagues see any

necessity for landing the province into

political turmoil at this time. The

ministers have the confidence of the

Legislature. Whenever a constituency

has been opened, the majorities for the

Liberal candidates have greatly in-

creased, and it has been proved that

the Government has the confidence

of the large majority of the

people. At the proper time, Mr.

Ross says, the electors will be asked

to pronounce between the record of the

ministers, and the records of those who

assail them. But as to the outcome,

the member for West Middlesex has no

misgivings.

In the meantime, at the close of a

hard year's work in his department,

and in the Legislature, the honorable

gentleman has come west to renew old

acquaintances and make new friends

in the county of his birth, in the com-

munity where he spent a large portion

of his busy life.

It is noteworthy that despite the

fact that he is only in his fifth year

of the Minister of Education will, on

Aug. 27, celebrate the 25th anniversary

of his election as a parliamentary

representative of the people of West Mid-

dlesex. On Aug. 27, 1872, after one of the

most keenly fought contests that has

ever taken place in Western Ontario,

Mr. Ross defeated the late A. P. Mc-

Donald, and from that day to this,

either in the House of Commons or in

the Legislature, the honorable gen-

tleman has faithfully served the con-

stituency, being re-elected at each suc-

ceeding general election. Few states-

men have a record of such continuous

service, and to few has it been given to

make and maintain more friends.

Quebec city council voted \$2,500 for

the celebration of the Queen's jubilee.

The Quebecers do not mean to be be-

hind in their demonstration of loyalty

on the auspicious occasion.

Kipling's Latest.

Rudyard Kipling, whose character-

ization of Canada as "Our Lady of the

Snows" in his recent great poem, got

him into hot water with the critics,

has atoned for an injury he may have

done by the following splendid testi-

monial to Canada's position as a place

in which to live and enjoy life, or to

invest spare cash. It is in the shape

of an interview with the St. James'

Gazette:

"It is a great country; a country

with a future. There is a fine, hard,

bracing climate; the climate that puts

iron and grit into men's bones, and

there are all good things to be got

out of the ground, if people will work

for them. What is wanted is more

and more money. Why don't

Englishmen think more of it as a field

for English capital and enterprise?

Surely there is an excellent opening

both for the investing and the emi-

grating British there. Things don't

perhaps move quite so fast as in the

States, but they are safer, and you

are under the flag you know, and

among men of the same stock and

breed. Send your folks to Canada;

and, if they can't go themselves, let

them send their money—plenty of it."

If every patriotic Britisher were

either to follow Kipling's example or

advice, what a revolution for the

good of Canada and of the

land it would accomplish.

Coming Great Changes.

We have been making history fast

in the last ten years, but there are

many indications that before the year

1907 even more marvelous changes will

be effected in the east than have been

accomplished since 1857. The great Si-

berian railway, now being constructed,

will be completed, and Russia will have

a gigantic transcontinental line, 5,000

miles long, from St. Petersburg to

Viadivostok, on the coast of Asia.

Simultaneous with this development is

proceeding a scheme for the early

construction of \$400,000,000 worth of

warships for Russia, and by the time

the great railway is in running order

a considerable number of these vessels

will be transferred to Asiatic waters

as a permanent agency for the promo-

tion of the interests of the empire.

What this means those who have noted

Russia's steady acquisition of Asiatic

territory, during the last quarter of a

century, can judge.

But Russia is not the only power

which is resolved on developing the

trade of war in the east. The Japanese

Government, having in the conflict with

China proved its right to be recog-

nized as a nation, is also determined

to extend its power upon the high seas,

and by 1906 it hopes to possess six

first-class battleships, ranging from

12,000 to 15,000 tons each; one second-

class battleship; six first-class armored

cruisers; six second-class armored

cruisers; six third-class armored cru-

islers; twelve torpedo gunboats; one

torpedo boat ship; eleven torpedo boat

destroyers, and 25 gunboats.

These developments in the Pacific

have interest for us in Canada. From

our position as an important part of

the British empire we are always liable

to become a factor in any disturbance

in the east, especially in so far as

Russia is concerned. With a Russian

break in the Northern Pacific, an out-

break of hostilities between Great

Britain and the Slav power might

prove extremely interesting for our

Pacific Province citizens.

Great Britain does not seek trouble

with either Russia or Japan, but the

land hunger and prestige-hunting

which modern great powers find it

hard to satisfy may at any time bring

up new issues which the imperial

statesman cannot shirk. In view of the

later continental developments, and

the ill will against Great Britain, which

continental monarchs and politicians

take no care to conceal, the warning

note struck by Hon. David Mills, in

an interview printed elsewhere, may

well be heeded.

Several law suits over the payment of

toll on the London and Port Stanley

road are on trial in the superior courts.

The name is somewhat misleading. No

tolls are levied on that portion of the

London and Port Stanley road which is

situated in Middlesex county. The El-

gin end of the road is still under the

domination of the toll gate. In the pro-

gressive county of Middlesex, for many

years, we have had but one toll road,

and the gates ought to have been re-

moved from it long ago.

The United States Commissioner of

Immigration expects a decrease of new-

comers over the border to the extent

of 50,000 this year. Hard times and

the alien labor law are the chief causes

for the decrease. May we not soon ex-

pect to see a big influx of settlers for

our Northwest prairies?

The Crop Outlook.

It is somewhat remarkable that while

in Ontario the season is two weeks

later than at this time last year, the

crops in Manitoba and the Northwest,

in point of growth, are nearly a month

ahead of what they were at this time

in 1896. This, it is held, insures an

early harvest in the Northwest, and

immunity from the fall frosts, which

are sometimes destructive to late-

sown grain. But nothing is being hurt

in Ontario by the comparatively slow

progress towards the summer season.

Spring grain has not got much of a

start, but there is plenty of time yet

for it to mature, while fall wheat and

grass are shooting up into luxuriant

growth. So far there has been no

frost to hurt anything, and the pros-

pects are that, east and west, there

will be average fruit and field crops.

Let us hope that the prices in the

world's markets, which rule the re-

muneration that comes to our farm-

ers, will be such as to afford fair re-

ward to the agriculturist for his toil,

and aid in fully re-establishing pros-

perity among all classes in Canada.

—It is now generally asserted that

Canada had had a preferential tariff

applicable to Great Britain when cattle

from the Dominion were scheduled, the

British law would never have been

passed. The wise step of the present

Government may result in the obno-

lous statute being repealed.

A Majority Needed.

The Montreal Gazette reaches the

conclusion that "without a clear ma-

jority of the people in favor of the

principle, the work of enforcing pro-

hibition would be a hopeless task."

Every reasonable prohibitionist will

admit that this contention is well

founded. No sensible man desires to see

a prohibitory law that only had the

support of a minority of the electors.

Such a law could not be enforced, and

would speedily bring about a reac-

tion.

Says the Ottawa Citizen (Conserva-

tive): "The Dominion is tired of Con-

servative rule." Such revelations, as

those which were brought out, under

sworn testimony, in the Kingston Pen-

itentiary investigation, shows the rea-

son why. The present Government and

the officers employed under it may