

### THE PONDEROUS CROWN OF ENGLAND.

If Queen Victoria were compelled to wear all the time the beautiful crown of which she is so worthy, she would be a woman greatly to be pitied and never to be envied, for that magnificent affair weighs nearly two pounds. "Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown" is a proverb easily understood when one realizes this; and yet, when one considers what the crown of the Queen contains, it ought not to be difficult to realize that it is heavy. It holds more than 3,000 precious stones, more than 2,700 of which are diamonds. The golden head-band holds two rows of pearls, the lower having 120 and the upper 112 of these treasured stones. Between these bands in front is a large sapphire, and behind is a small sapphire—small only when compared with the one in front, however—with six still smaller ones and eight emeralds. Between the sapphires fore and aft are ornaments containing 286 diamonds. Surmounting the band are eight sapphires, above which are eight diamonds, and eight festoons which hold 160 diamonds, and in the front, set in a Maltese cross composed of 75 large diamonds, is the magnificent ruby given to the Black Prince in 1367 by Pedro, King of Castile, and which was worn by that dashing monarch Henry V. on his helmet at the battle of Agincourt.

In addition to these, three crosses containing 386 diamonds are set around the upper part of the crown, between which are four ornaments, each holding a ruby in its centre, and containing respectively 84, 86, 85 and 87 diamonds. From the crosses rise four arches composed of oak leaves and acorns, the oak leaves containing 728 diamonds, and the acorns—32 in number—made each of a single pearl set in cups composed of diamonds. Surmounting the arches is the base of the cross which surmounts the whole. The base, or mound, as it is called, contains 548 diamonds, and the cross—the crowning glory of all this magnificence—contains a huge sapphire and 112 diamonds.

Of course, anything so grand as this is worth a great deal of money, and the value placed upon it by experts is \$1,500,000—although it may be doubted if anyone could buy it for twice that amount. It is kept in a great iron cage along with the other crown jewels in the Tower of London, which is at all times strongly guarded, as well it may be, for with the rest of the precious stones and crowns and other valuables comprising the regalia, the contents of the cage are estimated as being worth £3,000,000, or \$15,000,000.—*Harper's Young People.*

### THE POSITION OF NEW ZEALAND.

There are many lessons to be learned from a recent paper upon New Zealand read before the Royal Colonial Institute by Mr. W. B. Perceval, the Agent-General of that beautiful "England of the Southern Seas." Not the least of these lessons is that of hopefulness.

New Zealand, with a population of 620,000, has a public debt of \$186,795,000, or \$300 per head. It has spent over \$75,000,000 upon railways; \$17,000,000 upon roads and bridges; \$10,000,000 upon immigration,

and about \$50,000,000 upon native wars and defense, yet its people are not given to grumbling, and are as proud of their little country and as confident of its future as if they had Canada's population or Canada's debt of only \$47 per capita. Hard times they have had, partly as a result of extravagance and from other causes, but matters are now on the mend, as must always be the case where energy and patriotism are found in unison. The following table will illustrate this gradual improvement:

	1886.	1890.
Imports.....	\$33,795,000	\$36,300,000
Exports.....	33,360,000	49,055,000
Expenditure of borrowed money.....	7,913,000	1,994,000
Acres under cultivation...	34,225,000	42,312,000

Mr. Perceval draws especial attention to the increasing value of the British market to New Zealand; the growth of its trade with the Mother Country; and the fact that distance is of little importance in modern trade. It is the conditions of production, not freight or distance, which properly controls agricultural profit and commerce. In connection with the beauty of climate and scenery in his native country, Mr. Percival is naturally enthusiastic, and, referring to the labors of the early settlers, he quotes:

Behold their work, revere their names,  
Green pictures set in golden frames,  
Around the city of the streams  
Fulfill the pilgrim's brightest dreams,  
With them a fairer England grew  
'Neath speckless skies of sunny blue.

Hope and confidence were the framework in which his subject was presented, a sentiment which he applied to not only the future development of New Zealand, but the future closer union and better relations of that country with Canada and the other portions of the Empire. Canadians will reciprocate the sentiment and join in the hope.—*Toronto Empire.*

Work on the mammoth Canadian Pacific Hotel, at Montreal, has begun.

### RELICS OF THE CABOTS.

Many relics of the Cabots, the early English voyagers to America, will be exhibited at the exposition by a committee formed for that purpose in Bristol, England, where the Cabots lived. The *Bristol Times and Mirror* of recent date states that the committee held a meeting to complete arrangements for collecting the material for the exhibit: that the mayor of the city presided; that there was a very large attendance, representing especially the leading mercantile houses and the various archaeological associations of the city, and that it was apparent from the proceedings that there was available an abundance of relics from which to select a very interesting exhibit.

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