

The faith of her representative citizens in the future prosperity of Toronto does not appear to have suffered any weakening by the lull that has come over the building operations this season. Questioned as to what Toronto is likely to be twenty five years hence, such men as President Davidson, of the Board of Trade, Ex-President Matthew, Ald. Boustead, Ald. Frankland, and others of equal prominence and judgment have expressed the opinion that by 1915 the city will at least have doubled in population, if indeed it does not reach the half million line. Nor is this estimate unreasonable considering the past history of the city, and the relation which it sustains to the rest of the Dominion. During the last twenty-five years the population has grown from 45,000 to 200,000, that is, it has more than quadrupled. Its assessable property has increased in value from \$25,000,000 in 1865 to \$130,000,000 in 1890. Besides, it is the centre of the business of the province, and is the point to which are destined to gather the products of all parts of the globe.

News has been received from Buffalo that "the Provincial Natural Gas Company of Toronto, with large properties in natural gas in Welland county has entered into a contract with the Buffalo Natural Gas Fuel Company and the papers have been signed and approved by the various parties thereto." How this arrangement will be regarded by those who feel themselves responsible for the efficiency and sufficiency of the "protection wall" it is not easy to say. No provision seems to have been made for levying duty on gas itself though gas coke, fixtures, meters, pipes, etc., have not been overlooked. Hitherto the only commodity known by the name has been confined to animated vessels which have come across the frontier without question, and have given of the supply gratis or for a consideration as the case might be. That this abundant article was not assessed is probably owing to the difficulty in finding some means of appraisal, seeing that it cannot be measured, weighed, or estimated *ad valorem*.

The equality, not to say superiority of the female intellect has again been demonstrated in connection with the census count in the United States. Superintendent Porter, under whose supervision the count was conducted, testifies that the female counters were superior to the male. One young woman he mentioned counted in a single day within a few hundred of twice the daily average. If this kind of a thing continues a little longer, no notice will soon be taken of the fact that women excel the men in spheres for which they were once thought to have no fitness. It will soon be looked upon as a matter of course and will cease to excite surprise.

The revolutionary spirit, which has been so active in South America during the last few months, and has wrought such great changes in Brazil and the Argentine Republic, is reported to be stirring in Chili where a serious conflict has arisen between the Executive and the Legislature. For refusing to give them a Cabinet enjoying their confidence the National Congress has retaliated upon the President and has absolutely refused to vote any supplies. Consequently, everything is in a state of confusion: trade is paralyzed; while thousands of workmen are thrown out of work and are on the verge of starvation. Mobs, rendered

In his parting address to Canadians, Sir Fred. Middleton, who sailed for England last week, took occasion to state some facts which, had they been given at the time his case was before the committee would doubtless have tended to lessen his offence in the popular estimation and would probably have materially altered the character of the committee's report. The General points out that the responsibility for the offence (for he frankly admits the act was illegal, though at the time he considered himself justified in doing as he did) was not his alone, for that Mr. Hayter Reed, the officer appointed by Lieutenant Governor Dewdney to represent the civil authority in the disturbed district, at least concurred in, if he did not order the confiscation. Then, too, the General claims that he felt justified in seizing the furs by the fact that he had been asked by Sir Adolpho Caron "to bring back some souvenirs of your campaign for Sir John, Sir Hector, and myself," a request which he very naturally interpreted to mean that the ministers wanted to get something that had been captured from the rebels. It is a pity these facts were not brought to light at a time when they might have been of more service to the gallant soldier, and when they might have saved him much of the mortification he has felt and will continue to feel. The wisdom of his course in withholding information bearing so directly on his case is not above question, and indicates the weak point in his character, viz., a lack of discretion. That he did not disclose them at that time is probably owing to a desire to shield his friends. If this was his reason he has paid dearly for his generosity.

Besides showing where the blame for the confiscation of Bremner's furs belongs the address of General Middleton disposes of the charge that he neglected to recommend for promotion and honors those of his companions-in-arms who had distinguished themselves during the uprising. This imputation he shows to be entirely void of truth, and that so far from "neglecting" he really "exceeded military official etiquette" in his anxiety to obtain rewards for the deserving. He specifies particularly several communications which he addressed to the Minister of Militia in one of which he took the liberty to name the decorations and promotions that he would favor. Besides, he recalls an interview with Sir John Macdonald and Sir Adolphe Caron in which he pleaded for rewards for his officers. His request he tells us, was denied for two reasons: one being that as only two or three C. M. G.'s would be granted jealousy would be created among those who did not receive them; the other, that the inability to include in the list for honors the names of the two officers commanding the French-Canadian regiments would occasion trouble, which these Ministers did not think it advisable to incur. Thus it will be seen that "political exigencies," and not the selfishness of their commanding officer is the reason why those of our citizen-soldiers who should have been promoted have been allowed to go unrewarded. As to how this refusal will affect the political fortunes of the ministers chiefly concerned, opinion is divided. According to a prominent colored man at Ottawa, "it will hurt Caron and the Government in two ways. The English speaking officers now know that Sir Adolphe Caron, backed by Sir John Macdonald, vetoed the bestowal of honors on them, and the French-Canadian officers know very well that the Minister of Militia could by a simple request have had Gen. Middleton and the names of the two French-Canadian commanders. Sir Adolphe took care, however, that he was