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NOTES OF TRAVEL:

And Reminiscences of a Pleasant Tour.

I. C. MORRIS.

Chapter XV.

AT TORONTO AND NIAGARA FALLS.

The Queen city of the West is always attractive to the tourist, and his expectations are at their height on arrival; and so with our party: we had big expectations, for we had long heard of the city, and we knew that thousands of our own people had migrated there—hence there was a feeling of at-home-ness. The run from Ottawa to Toronto, is much the same as that already from Montreal to Ottawa. At every point the scenery is fascinating, and nature, art, and science, seem to compete in the bid for recognition. Even within the limits of the city itself, the shrubbery and foliage seem to challenge the architecture, and to wave their palms of verdure in defiance of man's genius. Toronto is rich in many things, but not the least, are its parks and shady trees. These add health to the people, and lend adornment to the city proper, and are looked upon as among the city's best assets. What a pity, eye! what a mistake it is, that we have not more trees growing in St. John's. If trees beautify one city why not beautify another, and St. John's is well worth being beautified.

But we will leave the cities for a moment, and write of Niagara Falls. Cities have many peers, and one outdoes another; for there are thousands of cities, and they all abound in romance and tragedy, and their annals are dyed with the stain of blood. Not so with the rapids or the rivers. These ever run on, and after dashing over a thousand falls, and sparkling into a million cascades, they rush onward to the mighty ocean, and in its bosom find their mother. No stain can remain upon the face of the waters. True the ocean has been stained, and on its crest have been fought countless battles, but in the dividing of its waves, and in the whitening of its foam, and in the majesty of its roar, old Neptune has asserted his right, and swept from the surface of his domain, the marks that would dare defile its waters or deface his throne. With this thought of the purity of the ocean, and the power of its tides uppermost in our minds, we visited the world renowned spot known as Niagara Falls, and beheld the great lakes, which are literally in-land oceans — though of fresh water. In approaching the falls, the rapids are first seen, and it is almost a toss up, as to which of these sights impresses the visitor most. One member of our party declared in favor of the rapids; but when all is said and done, the palm must go to the Falls. The rapids present some wonderful sights, as seen from the train; but the grandeur of the Falls far surpasses the rapids best view. The whole river is like a pot of seething foam, and the countless eddies which form at every obstacle, and which whirl and twist in a thousand shapes, are like so many imprisoned living creatures struggling for freedom. The rapids present a wonderful sight; and not one not soon forgotten.

But what shall be said of Niagara Falls? Many pens have written of their grandeur, and a million hearts have paid homage to their glory. What then can we say? We can only still look and wonder, and say Amen, to all the best that has ever been recorded. We stood at the precipices, we lingered at the islets, we gazed from the heights, and peered down into the depths, and tried to gauge the power of the waters, or to calculate their force, or to estimate their commercial value. We listened to their thunderous roar, and felt the dampness of the mists, and beheld the mighty volume of waters. We decended by the elevator, and walked through the tunnel which leads to the back of the falls, and there we stood. Could it be true that our wanderings led us to such a place? The party consisted of seven. Before us, and within reach of us, was the mighty water-fall; but it did not look like water; it looked like some vast sheet of molten silver, or like some huge bridal veil, scintilating and flashing in the sun. Down the torrent came. It was above us and yet beneath us—and it was also before us. We looked, and looked, and looked; and that was all we could do; for the deafening noise of the waters in the cavern where we stood, made conversation impossible. But we did not wish to converse, we had gone to see, and when we looked, we felt something like the Queen of Sheba must have felt when she said to Solomon "The half has not been told." To properly appreciate Niagara Falls they should be seen. For generations these Falls have been the wonder of North America; and as the years pass, and science links together the power of the flood and the developments of commerce, their value will increase. But whatever the future may hold in its womb for the utility of these waters, their attraction will always lie in their great natural beauty, and their mad rush will ever remain as a spectacle of wonder, and a source of admiration.

(Continued on Tuesday.)

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Legislative Council.

June 11.

The House met at 4 p.m.

An Act to authorize the Montreal Trust Co. to do business in the Colony, and an Act respecting Postal and Telegraph Services passed the third reading.

An Act respecting Certificates of Masters and Mates passed the Committee stage.

The Exportation of Salt Codfish Bill occupied the attention of the House for the rest of the evening, Hons. D. A. Ryan, Sir P. T. McGrath and R. K. Bishop taking part in the debate. Hon. Geo. Shea in submitting the Bill for consideration of committee, said it was part and parcel of the legislation of the Government's regulations respecting our staple industry, which were necessarily of an experimental character. Hon. Mr. Grieve opposed the bill which he thought was calculated to do immense harm to exporters, and cause damages which will react on the whole industry of the colony. The principal points in his speech were that the establishment of arbitrary prices have been the cause of severe monetary losses to the trade. The restrictions, while not wholly responsible, helped considerably to bring us to the conditions in which we find ourselves to-day. He pointed out to the House that already the law had been evaded and fish was sold at 98|- while the control price was 102|6 and that the Advisory Board was cognizant of the fact, but had taken no action. Continuing he quoted a western outport shipper who was offered 76|- less 1% at Oporto but the Board refused permission to sell under the regulation price which was 84|-. The fish was later sold at an enormous loss. "I state," said the Hon. member, "that if this bill passes nothing short of a miracle will realize $12 for shore and $10 for Labrador fish this fall. Competition is necessary in order to maintain prices. An immense quantity of old fish still unsold will overlap the new and the disaster in in the fall of the year will be such that it will sweep away the strongest Government. I am not a politician, but if I were in the Opposition I would say let the regulations go through. I view the Bill as a great political blunder, and a greater commercial blunder."

Hon. R. K. Bishop, in replying, said he thought there were many safeguards in the Bill. The shipping of fish on consignment might have entailed very heavy losses on Hon. Mr. Grieve, and as to the Western outport man he may have sustained losses on a cargo which he thought he had sold. Such losses are often met during the course of negotiations. He did not, however, think there were any hope of obtaining $10 per quintal for Labrador fish this fall or $12 for Shore. It was a serious mistake on the part of the Minister to send the fishermen away with these prices in their minds. A great many men were not risking the fishery this year, but he thought the voyage would not be less than that of other years. And by care on the part of the Board he hoped that the results of the fishery regulations would not be as disastrous as thought.

Hon. D. A. Ryan followed, and said he agreed with what Mr. Grieve had said. "We have enough already of regulations; yes, and more than we know what to do with." He confirmed the statement of Hon. Mr. Grieve by referring to a fish transaction of his own. He had 110 5-qtl. casks of fish to sell about March 1st, and he wired to his agents in Liverpool for best prices obtainable. They wired back that the best was 65|- (the regulation price then was 70|-) He was willing to sell this fish at 65|- and he asked the Advisory Board for permission to do so, showing it all the correspondence. Permission was refused, the Board claiming that 70 shillings could be obtained. He offered the fish to the members at 60 shillings and he to pay expenses, but they would not accept. It was later shipped by s.s. Digby through Hawes, who sent it to Alicante, where it could not be sold. Next it was shipped to Valencia. On the second day of June he called on Hawes' local agent to know if his brokers had been paid for the fish. He was told that the fish had not been sold yet. The fish was in splendid condition when it reached Alicante. Continuing, the speaker said, there are stores of fish in Spain which he suppose Hawes was trying to get the regulation price for, while the Norwegians, Icelanders and others were selling under him. We hold our fish for the regulation price, and indeed we are holding it. "I strongly oppose the regulations, and if enforced the best plan next fall will be to stand from under."

A motion made by Hon. Mr. Grieve that the Bill be given the six months' hoist, was seconded by Mr. Ryan.

Hon. P. T. McGrath asked that more information on the subject before the House, be given, before he could decide on a question of so much importance. He wished to know from the hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill if the regulations that are in force have helped the trade, and if so in what way. What advantage was it to the country to have to sell through Hawes as stated by Hon. Mr. Ryan. He suggested that the committee rise and consider the Bill at next session. Here the question of amendments to the Bill was suggested, but the hon. gentleman in charge of it thought that it was a money bill and therefore could not be amended. Sir Patrick thought differently, and quoted why it was not.

Four readings on the order paper were deferred.

The Council adjourned at 6.30.

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Woman Goes Insane.

North Sydney, June 5.—A passenger by the s.s. Kyle on her last trip from Newfoundland registered at the Belmont as Mrs. Robt. Hedderton, of Boston. The lady, in conversation with some parties, explained that she was on her way to Virginia, where her husband is now said to be residing. She appeared to have plenty funds, but was rather abnormal in her behaviour. However, after settling her hotel bill she went away on the night express. On the train her condition grew worse and she became quite violently insane. At a point near Antigonish, where the expresses meet, she was transferred to the east bound train and brought back here. Her condition has become more aggravated and Friday night she will in all probability be returned to Newfoundland. Efforts are being made to locate any relatives and friends whom she may have there.

BACK TO NEWFOUNDLAND.

North Sydney, June 6.—Mrs. Hedderton, the unfortunate lady from Bay Roberts, who arrived here slightly demented and was afterwards transferred from the Halifax-bound express to the Sydney express, was returned to Newfoundland Saturday night by the Immigration Department. She was somewhat violent at times but went back quite contented under the impression that she was sailing for Boston.

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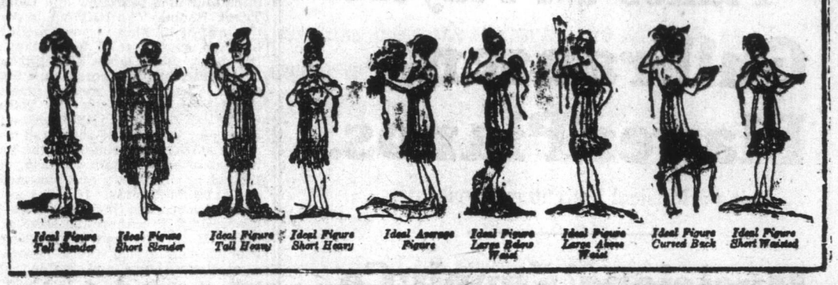

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Football Fives.

Preliminary fives for St. Bon's Sports will be played on the College Campus at 7.45 on Monday evening. The teams will play in the following order:

A.—B.I.S. vs. Briton.
B.—Colegians vs. Star.
C.—C.E.I. vs. Feildians.
D.—C.C.C. vs. Highlanders.
St. Andrew's—bye.

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