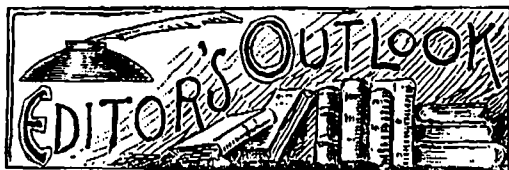


Voices of Summer.

The golden-rod flashes, while the wild asters gleam
And nod, as I pass o'er the bridge of the stream.
E'en cobwebs hang sparkling in a niche of the wall,
Dew trembled, and fluting for fair queen's hall,
O'er the wild-rose bushes the humming bird darts,
And back on the air a soft fragrance imparts.
A tricky chipmunk chuckles in frolicsome glee,
As he pelts my head with nuts from a tree;
Stares with his saucy black eyes, and all russet-gowned,
Now here, now there, he is lost soon as found.

In an instant drows down, flashes on o'er the wall,
But ere out of sight, sends back his pert call.
While up from the ferny brakes a little bird springs:
In joyous existence, rapturously sings.
Among clover blooms, butterflies in and out glint;
Locusts whirr, bees drone, 'mid wild peppermint.
There's tinkle of cow-bells in pastures near by,
And, mellowed by distance, the hoarse village cry.
With the singing of birds, I am up and away;
And praising the Giver, hail the new day.

—C. T. WALKER, in *Good Housekeeping*.



THE Indian Department has completed arrangements for the erection of a large Industrial School near the Experimental Farm, Brandon, Man. It will cost about \$22,000, and will be managed by the Methodist Church in the same way as other Industrial Schools for Indians in the North West are managed by other denominations.

THE Illinois House of Representatives has just passed a bill prohibiting the reprehensible practice of docking horse's tails. This cruel fad is the revival of a fashion that was in vogue in England in the old coaching days, when the roads were very muddy, and it was difficult to keep the teams clean. Nowadays, there is no reason for depriving the horses of their natural defence against flies.

THE Finance Minister, in the course of his budget speech, on June 23rd, spoke hopefully of the future. Business was good, crops in the North West promised well, and revenue was buoyant. But the great feature of his speech was the announcement of changes in the tariff. These involve a removal of the duty on raw sugar imported direct from the place of production, and the levying of additional taxes upon malt, spirits, and tobacco, to cover a portion of the deficiency of three and a half millions of revenue which will be lost by the removal of the sugar duties. The new duties on liquors and tobacco are expected to produce one and a half millions, and the balance of two millions is to be made up by the exercise of rigid economy in the expenditures. The tariff changes are apparently popular with the masses.

IN our last issue we stated that the authorities at Washington had imposed a fifteen days' quarantine on all sheep and swine entering the United States from Canada. It is now announced that as the Canadian Government has complied with the requirements of the order imposing the quarantine, it has now been revoked as affecting Canadian sheep and swine, which may therefore be imported into the United States from Canada, subject only to the regular inspection of their veterinary officers, or to a certificate from the proper quarantine officers in Canada in the case of imported animals, showing them to have been duly quarantined. The Canadian hog and Canadian sheep may now shake hands and join the exodus, free from official interference.

THE death of Sir John Macdonald is sincerely mourned by all Canadians, irrespective of party or creed, and already Ottawa, Kingston, Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton and other cities are moving in the direction of erecting public monuments to his memory. A signal honor, the first of the kind ever paid to a colonial statesman, was conferred upon the dead chieftain, in the shape of a memorial service in Westminster Abbey, at which representatives of royalty and the leading statesmen, men of letters, and other notable personages of the Empire were present. It is officially announced from England that Lady Macdonald has been raised to the peerage as an acknowledgment of her husband's long and distinguished public service. It is also reported that Sir John's son, Mr. Hugh J. Macdonald, M.P. for Winnipeg, will be knighted. Canada has reason to be proud of the great and universal eminence attained by the late Premier, as all the leading papers throughout Her Majesty's dominions have paid just tribute to his worth and passed glowing eulogiums upon his career as a statesman and friend of that glorious empire upon which the sun never sets. Much speculation was indulged in as to who would be Sir John's successor, and it was finally announced that Hon. J. J. C. Abbott had been selected by the Governor-General to form a Cabinet. The new Premier is a member of the Senate and the leadership of the Commons has been entrusted to Sir Hector Langevin. All the old ministers retain their portfolios. It is generally felt, however, that this arrangement is only temporary, and that a thorough re-organization of the Cabinet will be made as soon as possible after the present session of Parliament is closed.

FROM the official crop bulletin prepared by the Manitoba Government, issued last month, the total acreage put under crop this season is shown to be 1,350,901 acres, being an increase of 267,407 over that of 1890. Of this increased area 170,707 acres are devoted to wheat; 70,110 to oats, and 23,793 to barley. The remainder of 2,898 acres are divided among the potato, root and rye areas. The total number of acres under wheat is 916,664; oats, 305,664; barley, 89,828; peas, 55; potatoes, 12,705; roots, 9,301. It is satisfactory to note that the crop prospects were never better and that an abundant harvest is confidently expected. Crop reports received from all parts of the Province of Ontario to June 13th. show that in districts visited by the recent heavy rains the crops have a much more promising look. The hay crop will be a failure, but an average yield is expected from fall wheat, while spring grains will, with the recurrence of regular rains, return a good average crop. In Russia the crop prospects are so bad that a famine is feared, and the exportation of corn is to be prohibited. In Hungary the harvest will be middling in quantity and quality, while in Austria it will be decidedly inferior to the harvest of the last five years.

PEOPLE who advocate the total prohibition of the liquor traffic have at last gained a point. In the Dominion House of Commons on June 24th, a stormy debate, which speedily developed a party complexion, took place on a resolution looking to immediate prohibition. A vote was taken on a proposal that the question be submitted to the people, which was only supported by seven members, as it was felt that it was indecisive in that it did not say how the popular opinion was to be tested. Thereupon the Minister of Finance proposed that the subject be referred to a Royal Commission for enquiry: (1) As to the effect of the liquor traffic upon all interests affected by it in Canada. (2) Measures which have been adopted in other countries with a view to lessening, regulating or prohibiting the liquor traffic. (3) The results of these measures in each case. (4) The effect the enforcement of a prohibitory liquor law in Canada would have with respect to the social condition, agricultural, business, industrial, and commercial interests and financial requirements of Municipalities, Provinces, and the Dominion, and also as to the capabilities of efficient enforcement, and all other information bearing upon the question of prohibition. This proposition was carried by a straight party vote of 107 to 88.