

# The Dominion Illustrated.

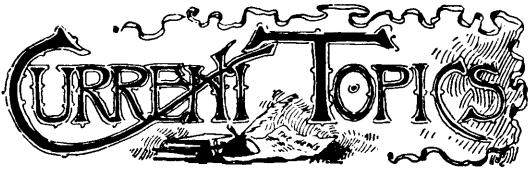
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## NOTICE.

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 "THE EDITOR, DOMINION ILLUSTRATED."



The Christmas Number of THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED will, we believe, convince the reading public that a holiday issue comparable, both in its pictorial and its literary contents, to anything produced on either side of the Atlantic can be compiled with Canadian co-operation alone. Neither effort nor expense has been spared in making it worthy of the highest aspirations of the Dominion. Our best artists and writers will be represented in its pages, and it will be Canadian from title-page to finis. As this number will mark a new starting point in the history of illustrated journalism in Canada, and will comprise a more comprehensive representation of Canadian ability and enterprise (artistic, literary and industrial) than any preceding publication, no time should be lost in sending in orders, so that every part of Canada may have a full supply for the Christmas sales.

There is one fact which those orators, who have been so persistently urging on our Canadian farming population the wonderful benefits that would result from the opening up of a market of sixty millions, seem to have lost sight of, and that is that the condition of the farmers on the other side of the line, who are in the enjoyment of this grand market is, in not a few instances, less satisfactory than that of our own people, who are asked to envy them. Of the state of things in Dakota it is hardly necessary to say a word. On that point the evidence has been overwhelming. Quite a number of Canadian settlers in the impoverished districts of the new State have lately been provided with homes in Manitoba and the North-West, and the alacrity with which they embraced the offer to transfer their penates across the frontier did not at all support the theory that the "sixty million market creates an elysium for the farmer. The visit of Mr. Innes, Dominion Immigration Agent, to Michigan brought out additional evidence of the same negative character. The condition of the settlers there was, it is true, in several respects, preferable to that of the Dakotan exiles, but some of the crops had turned out badly (the potato crop being practically a failure), complaints of hard times were rife, and not seldom the agent's inducements to return to Canada were eagerly accepted. In New England and New York the condition of many of the farming communities has been shown by statistics that are beyond question to be that of continuous decline. Even districts, which from their situation in close proximity to important business centres and in the enjoyment of every facility for communication with every point in the "sixty million market" have been proved to be waning in population and prosperity—the people taking the opportunity, whenever available, of seeking fresh fields and pastures new, where the chance of making a livelihood is not so meagre. In fact, it has been abundantly shown that agriculture in the New England and Middle, as well in some of the Wes-

tern States, instead of flourishing, as these advocates of surrender would have us believe, is in some localities in a decidedly and confessedly worse condition than it is in any part of the Dominion. It is well to bear this in mind.

It is of historical, if not of political, interest to know that the descendant and heir of the kings by whom the colony of New France was founded is much gratified with the condition of his kinsmen in the Dominion under British rule. Had valiant, brusque old Frontenac, when, from his eyry at Quebec, he defied the proud invader, Sir William Phips, who had summoned him to surrender, dreamed for a moment that, two centuries later, the descendant and representative of his royal master would send across the ocean such a message of acquiescence in the transfer of Canada to the control of its ancient foes, we can well imagine what surprise and indignation would have possessed his haughty soul. "L'homme propose mais Dieu dispose." The Comte de Paris accepts the turn of events in Canada with more resignation than he accepts what has taken place in France. The future may, however, have changes as noteworthy still in store. The present French Republic has, it is true, lasted longer than preceding attempts to establish democracy in France. It has surmounted obstacles so grave, and overcome enemies so apparently strong, that its friends may look upon it as assured. But a united and vigorous movement of conservatism against its defences may, for all we know, yet carry by assault the envied fortress of power. Should such a transformation come to pass, the letter of the Comte de Paris to Queen Victoria will acquire still greater significance as the deliberately expressed conviction of a King of France to a Sovereign of England. In any case, the Comte's telegram and Her Majesty's reply are worth remembering as a fitting conclusion to a visit which was gratifying in so many ways.

We have again and again commented on the progress of technical education in Canada. Its extension is not confined to any province, and it is satisfactory that it is having due recognition in the higher seats of learning as well as in the industrial colleges and schools. McGill University deserves credit for having first set the example of organizing special courses in applied science. The need of such provision was indicated as long as thirty-five years ago in the present Principal's inaugural address. In 1857 the first practical steps towards supplying the need were taken by the establishment of the chair of Civil Engineering. At the same time special branches were associated with the Faculty of Arts. In 1871 the subjects of the Applied Science course were constituted a distinct department, which in 1877 was raised to the rank of a faculty. Since then much has been done in the organization and equipment of the departments of civil, mining and mechanical engineering and practical chemistry. It is purposed, as soon as possible, to add to these a school of electrical engineering. The building, of which the cornerstone was laid with due formality on the 30th ult. by His Excellency the Governor-General (Lord Stanley of Preston), will add materially to the efficiency of the instruction in the scientific classes. The University authorities are indebted for the means of erecting this new home for scientific study and research to the late Thomas Workman, who by his will left \$117,000 to establish a department of mechanical engineering in the Faculty of Applied Science. Part of the capital of this bequest was to be expended in buildings and apparatus, the remainder to form an endowment fund for the teaching staff, including a professor of mechanical engineering. Mr. McDonald, an old benefactor of the University, supplemented Mr. Workman's legacy with a further gift of \$150,000, besides endowing a chair of Experimental Physics in the Faculty of Arts. The account given by Prof. Bovey of the progress of the Faculty of Applied Science during the last twelve or thirteen years is full of encouragement, as showing from what small beginnings the present advanced state of the scientific classes had developed. During the early portion of the period they were pursuing

science under difficulties, but the day of weary waiting for help had ended at last, and the faculty would now be placed on a broad and secure basis by the erection of suitable buildings and equipment of laboratories. This improvement of the scientific department of McGill is not of merely local importance, affecting very largely, as it does, the interests of this Province, and, to a considerable extent, those of the whole Dominion.

The Irish population of Canada (which constitutes an important proportion of the whole) cannot fail to be concerned at the course of events in Ireland. The Chief Secretary's tour through the Western Province has revealed an amount and degree of wretchedness which must bring home both to the Government and its opponents the urgent need of industrial revival. Mr. Balfour has seen with his own eyes the condition of the peasantry and has had interviews with the clergy of the most destitute districts. The latter take the sensible view that mere almsgiving will prove of little benefit. What the people want is to be put in the way of helping themselves. To that end it is recommended that loans be advanced which would enable the inhabitants of the coast to procure gear for deep-sea fishing. The fisheries of Ireland are immensely productive, but the destitution of the people has in many instances been so great that they can buy neither boats nor tackle and the consequence has been that one of the most profitable of the island's resources has yielded comparatively little to the sustenance of the people. Another cause of complaint is the absence of means of communication with the markets of the interior, and it is proposed to build light railways which will be of permanent usefulness, while their construction will afford work and thus give immediate relief. But, when all that is practicable has been done, the people in the poorer and more crowded districts will still be struggling with poverty. To cling to such homes as Mr. Balfour saw in Connemara might be excusable if there was no place else in the world where those poor peasants could make a living. But, while there are millions of acres of fertile land in Canada awaiting the coming of the pioneer, it surely seems folly to persist in dragging on an existence in those desolate wilds. Perhaps Mr. Balfour is afraid to speak of emigration. That is the deplorable feature of the whole business. A mission has just reached the United States to raise money for further agitation; but, meanwhile, nothing is done to help the people and everything is done to prevent them taking advice or help from others. The prosperity of thousands of Irish people in Canada shows that for the industrious and prudent there are opportunities of self-advancement which are sought in vain in Ireland under any Government. It is a pity that more of the Irish peasantry could not be induced to take up land in the North-West.

We regret to learn that feuds of race and religion have been mixed up with the troubles in the North-West Mounted Police Force, to which attention was called in the last session of the House of Commons. According to certain correspondence in a French contemporary one of the commanding officers of the force had spoken and acted in a manner calculated to wound the susceptibilities of members who were French-Canadians and Roman Catholics. In one case, a lieutenant, belonging to a well-known Montreal family, was prevented, we are told, from commanding the escort that accompanied the Governor-General from Fort McLeod to Lethbridge, solely on account of his race and religion. In order to prove that, in this instance, an English had been substituted for a French officer to cast a slur on the nationality and creed of the latter, it is stated that on the evening following the day on which the change had been ordered one of the incriminated superior officers had grossly insulted the lieutenant in question, using language regarding his origin which could only be indicated by initial letters. Several other accusations of the same kind are mentioned in the correspondence, the witnesses against the alleged offender being of English origin and speech. Some of the acts charged are of such petty spitefulness that one