

ingstone—there is a good supply of timber; and as for the remaining five or six hundred miles more than half the distance is through woodland. The late Minister of the Interior devoted special attention to the subject of how best to encourage the general and systematic planting of trees on almost treeless prairie, and as he has been appointed Governor of the Northwest, he will be in a position to utilize the information he has collected, and carry out the plans that experience has shown to be best, and also to prevent or limit the prairie or forest fires that have been hitherto so destructive. The good effects of extensive tree-planting on the soil and on the climate can hardly be over-estimated. Professor Macoun says:—"One consequence of trees being planted will be a greater rain-fall; and as a consequence of greater rain-fall the salts in the soil will be dissolved and carried off from the surface; and salt plants disappear. This is no fancy sketch, as it is a fact in physical geography that to clothe land with trees gives a greater rain-fall, and takes away the salt. Any person acquainted with the history of Palestine and North Africa knows that what were the most fruitful countries in the world two thousand years ago are now barren saline wastes. The cause is well known. The trees were cut down, none were planted in their place, the sun evaporated the rain before it had time to percolate the soil, salts accumulated, and in the course of time the land was given up to perpetual barrenness." This subject is also exhaustively discussed in Mr. Dawson's Report (p. 311 to 324).

The Indian question is the only remaining one upon which anything need be said, and it deserves a chapter or a volume to itself. Since *Ocean to Ocean* was written there have been two Indian wars in the United States, one with the Modocs and another with the Sioux. Captain Jack and Sitting Bull have shown what loss of life and prestige, and what enormous expense a handful of savages can inflict on a great nation; and we should give heed to the lesson. When our neighbour's