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The destruction by fire of the Asile Saint-Jean de Dieu, generally known as the Longue Pointe Asylum, with the accompanying loss of life, is one of the saddest calamities of which this city and province have had experience. As yet the number of victims is uncertain, but it is believed that more than fifty have perished—all females. There were some 1600 insane inmates, the majority being women. It is to be deplored that some of the Sisters, in their efforts to save the more headstrong patients of the women's wards, sacrificed their own lives. Universal sympathy has been felt for the superioress, Sister Thérèse (who was ill and confined to bed when the disaster occurred), and with her devoted company. The fire (of which the origin is still unknown) was first noticed shortly before noon on the 6th inst., and by four o'clock the whole vast block was in ruins. The firemen did their duty nobly and well, but in vain; and the ladies of the institution made almost superhuman efforts to save life and property. The entire insurance amounts to about \$300,000. The asylum was founded in 1873 and on the 16th of July, 1875, was formally opened. The Sisters of Providence spent \$1,132,232 in the work, \$700,000 being for construction. There were besides the central edifice, six storeys high, four smaller buildings, which were connected by wings, the total frontage being 630 feet. We hope to give a view and full description in our next number.

The *Western World* for February gives the first instalment of a number of answers received by Mr. Thomas Bennett, Government Immigration Agent, to inquiries respecting the experiences of settlers. These letters constitute the most acceptable of all evidence as to the fitness of the country for immigration. The more casual visitor may be deceived by appearances or he may depend too much on hearsay. But the man who has passed successfully through years of trial, who has neither been improvident in good nor discouraged by bad years, but has toiled steadily on to the sure goal of ultimate competence, is a witness whose testimony—every word of it—is valuable. Some of the farmers who tell the story of their careers in some of these letters brought \$200, some \$100, some still less, but they all came resolved to succeed, if success were possible. One, who with his sons is today worth \$25,000, had not enough to pay for his yoke of oxen. But he knew that there was treasure in the soil and he laboured diligently till he found it. This farmer says that he could write volumes of the advantages of Manitoba for new settlers.

Another pronounces it just the country for a poor man to get a start in. A third, an English tradesman, cannot imagine any other country where he could have got on so well, and another, who has lived both in Manitoba and the Territories, only regrets that he did not move westward sooner.

The Halifax Board of Trade held a special meeting in order to hear the Newfoundland delegates. Sir James Winter, who is at the head of the delegation to England, fully explained the situation in the Island and the injustice of the new *modus vivendi*. His colleagues spoke with equal earnestness against the French claims and England's virtual recognition of them. The Board of Trade expressed the utmost sympathy with the people of Newfoundland, and assured the delegates that in Canada their cause was certain to receive hearty support. Formal resolutions to that effect were framed by the executive committee, so that the delegates to England will be able to cite the Canadian sentiment in their favour. The delegates to Canada declined to touch the question of Newfoundland entering the Confederation, holding, it is said, different views on that subject. According to the latest intelligence the agitation in the Island in the new arrangement is unabated. The Government policy of allowing the French to enter Newfoundland ports for bait has also caused grave dissatisfaction in influential quarters. The Commercial Society of St. Johns has passed a series of resolutions emphatically condemning the modification of the Bait Act.

While we in Canada have been holding our centennials and bi-centennials, and looking forward to still more comprehensive vistas of retrospection, our colonial brethren in New Zealand have been holding their jubilee fêtes. Nor can we wonder at the enthusiasm with which they look back over their fifty years of provincial existence. Rarely in colonial history has a community shown in so brief a time such a record of progress and prosperity. To our esteemed contributor, "G. W. W.," we are indebted for an account of the jubilee fêtes, taken from the *New Zealand Herald*. The 29th of January was the day fixed for the inauguration, a committee, of which Mr. Devore was chairman, having made all the arrangements with energy, judgment and taste. Auckland wore its gala costume, and the entire population, and visitors from near and far—a multitude of holiday-makers such as had never been seen in that city before—entered fully into the spirit of the occasion. Additional lustre was given to the festivities by the presence of His Excellency the Earl of Onslow, Governor of New Zealand; Admiral Lord Charles Scott, in command of the Australian squadron; His Excellency the Earl of Carrington, Governor of New South Wales; Sir John Thurston, Governor of Fiji and High Commissioner of the Western Pacific, and several other personages of distinction. The naval squadron was represented by H.M.S. Orlando (flagship), H.M.S. Opal and H.M.S. Lizard. The weather on the opening day and during the whole week of the celebration was delightful, and everything passed off most satisfactorily. Races, regattas, excursions, reviews, athletic displays, banquets, with speeches both in English and Maori, were among the features of the celebration.

Elsewhere we reproduce a portion of a patriotic poem by Mr. Alex. M. Ferguson, on New Zealand's Jubilee. "G.W.W.," who kindly sends it to us, obtained it from a relative, the widow of Major

Green, whose father was well known to some of our older readers. There are bonds of this nature, more than perhaps many dream of, between New Zealand and the other South Pacific colonies and the Dominion of Canada. Some years ago Dr. Hocken, of Dunedin, passing through this city on his way round the world, made inquiries at his hotel concerning any surviving friends of the late Judge Chapman. Few recalled the name, for it was at that time nearly fifty (it is now getting on to sixty) years since Mr. Chapman had said adieu to Canada. His memory had not vanished, however, and with a little research it was discovered that he had played a prominent part on the popular side in the controversies of the pre-Union period. His name and speeches and doings, are they not written in the pages of Christie and Garneau? His son is now a prominent barrister in Dunedin. We hope the time is not distant when the relations between our far southern fellow-citizens of the Empire and ourselves will not be confined to such scattered instances, but will be close and constant and profitable to both them and us.

INDUSTRIAL ART IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

If all that has been written on the subject of technical education during the last fifty years were collected and printed in book form, it would constitute a library of many thousand volumes. In the main, this mass of literature would admit of a twofold classification. On the one hand, there would be works of a theoretical character, setting forth the value of manual training as an aid to the cultivation of the intellect; on the other, we should have the record of results attained. The advocates of this reform in educational methods who appealed to the world by their pens were slow in making an impression on the public mind. It was not till a few daring innovators determined to submit their theories to the test of experiment that prejudice began to give way and the technical school to obtain deserved recognition. The earlier attempts were humble enough, but the teachers were earnest men who had a firm belief in their system. They knew that if it were allowed fair play, the intelligent public would be sure to acknowledge its utility. Nor were they disappointed. The extent to which it has been adopted, both in the old world and the new, and the rapidity with which it has found favour with all friends of progress, testify abundantly to its merit and guarantee still greater triumphs. Education for labour through labour—that is the watchword and principle of its champions. Skill can only be acquired by practice, and to have qualified workmen in every branch of industry, the authorities of a country or a city must give its young men opportunities of learning.

It is not necessary now and here to trace the gradual stages of this movement from its inception or to enumerate the various influences to which it was due. Suffice it to say that, although isolated efforts in this direction had been made before that date, it was not till about thirty years ago that careful training in the industrial arts began to secure the sanction of educational authorities and governments. It has been chiefly within that limit of time that the most important legislation on the subject has been passed on both sides of the Atlantic. The great exhibitions, by stimulating the different competing nationalities to higher