

financial assistance necessary for a start and his enterprise was launched, which is now one of the greatest financial institutions in the world. One secret of his phenomenal success was his power in calling out the best that was in his associates and employees. The editors of this historical sketch say:—"Work well done was sure of his commendation and he took pleasure of telling of it to those about him, which shows how well he knew the incentives to ambition." The biography exhibits Mr. Hyde as a model for business men. He desired all statements to be as plain as possible, he refused to sanction one side-sided statements, he wished to see and to show the darker as well as lighter side, "he insisted upon seeing all sides," as do all thorough men of business and all clear headed men of all callings. His motto might have been the same as the family, "Thorough." To the memory of its founder the Equitable has raised a monument which adorns its magnificent building in New York. But his noblest monument is the company he created. Of Henry B. Hyde it was said: "To know him was to love him, the truest and the noblest of men." Such men do honour to their race, their country and their age.

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#### PROMINENT TOPICS.

The sudden break-up of wintry weather a week ago by the temperature rising to 50 degrees, accompanied by the heaviest downfall of rain on record at this season, put this city literally under water, obstructing traffic, flooding cellars and creating other disagreeable conditions. The removal of snow by the floods of rain will save the city a considerable sum, which might well be expended in putting the streets in better condition—they could hardly be in a worse. Last week we urged immediate attention being given to the gulleys leading to the sewers, the neglect of this work will probably cost the city double or treble what its timely execution would have cost. Some of our citizens suffered severely from their houses being flooded. This city, however, suffered very little from floods compared to many others. Between the Canadian border and New York the train service was in a worse state than probably ever before, owing to wash-outs. Scores of bridges in New York State have been destroyed by floods. At one point, the Empire State express train was submerged to a height that put the passengers in peril, the water being over the seats. Jupiter Pluribus, when on the rampage in the country, is most difficult to control, but, every well governed city is prepared for his outbreaks, and whatever damage is done by them results from utterly inexcusable neglect of precautions that are known to be necessary to protect dwellings and warehouses from inundation.

The hopes of Canada are centred so much upon the settlement and development of the North West, that every evidence of progress in that region is of the greatest interest. Mr. Fred Stimson, associated with the North West Cattle Company, which has a ranch near Calgary, has been in the city this week. He speaks in glowing terms of the condition and the prospects of the settlers throughout Manitoba and the Territories. Farmers who went there a few years ago with a capital of not more than \$500, have now their farms clear of incumbrance, a valuable stock of cattle, a full equipment of implements, comfortable houses, good barns, all paid for, and a deposit of \$3,000 to \$5,000 in a bank. The shipment of cattle has been hindered by insufficient railway accommodation. This is now remedied, or accommodation is in course of being provided, consequently there will be a shipment of 15,000 to 20,000 head of cattle from the North West next season. The influx of settlers this year is likely to be greater than ever before, and the more go in to develop the country the more attractive will it become, as the loneliness felt by the pioneers is now no longer a drawback, or, very much less so than a few years ago. Let Great Britain only do her duty to Canada, and this Dominion will be able to provide the people of the old land with all the wheat and meat they require.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Chancellor of the Exchequer, made a most important announcement in the British House of Commons, on the 3rd inst. In answer to a question, he stated that the subject of preferential duties would be discussed when the representatives of the self-governing colonies assembled in London at the time of the Coronation. Such an announcement implies that the Imperial Government sympathizes, to some extent, with the movement in favour of such fiscal arrangements as will consolidate the Empire by making both the mother country and the Colonies less dependent, the one for food supplies and the other for markets, upon foreign countries.

Some years ago vigorous attempts were unsuccessfully made to saddle this city with the entire cost of the expropriations on Notre Dame street East. The action of the Quebec Legislative Assembly, in passing the preamble of a Bill to effect the above object, is much to be deplored. It is understood that the property owners interested in those expropriations received full value for their holdings. Reference to the assessment rolls would reveal how they were treated. All expropriations involve some degree of hardship to real estate owners and others. In this respect probably those on Notre Dame street were not an exception. Where property owners have formally assented to expropriation arrangements, they should not seek relief from the obligations assumed. They may, how-