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A Northward Movement.

During the past half century the movement of population between British North America and the United States has been almost wholly southward. Here and there, to be sure, an individual settler or a family has struggled northward across the boundary, but these bear no comparison in numbers to the hundreds of thousands who have gone from Canada, or from the British provinces, to make their home under the stars and stripes and to devote their brain and brawn to the building up of the great republic. Probably that country has received no more valuable increment of population than that which has drifted across the boundary from these Maritime Provinces. There is still a considerable drift southward, though it is much less than it was formerly, but the movement of population is now by no means all in one direction. There is now in the Northwest a very appreciable movement into Canada from the United States, and this immigration seems likely to increase largely in volume in coming years. A leading American paper makes the statement that last year 12,000 persons crossed over from that country into Canada. The people of the Dakotas have discovered that there is a great extent of country to the north of the boundary line which in respect to soil and climate is superior to that to the south. There are now no unoccupied lands on the continent which can offer to the intending settler so rich a return for his toil as those of the Canadian Northwest. It is therefore probable that there will be from year to year a steady and increasing movement of population northward. As the Toronto Globe remarks, "the exchange of population ought to make for good relations. The Americans who settle among us will get rid of the impression that this is a down-trodden community, writhing under the heel of a European tyrant and will discover that our institutions are as free and as democratic as their own." Perhaps it is not taking too cheerful a view to hope that the rivalry of Canada and the United States may be a rivalry in civilization, not in shedding one another's blood or devastating one another's territory."

A Romance of the War.

What may be termed a romance of the South African war is told in a despatch from London, Ont. The principal figure in it is Sergt. Wrendell a member of the Strathcona Horse, who has just returned to his home at Kelly's Siding, near London, having been disabled by his wounds from returning with the body of his comrades. Wrendell went to South Africa as a private in the second contingent. He was in all the battles in which that body was engaged, without being injured, and when his comrades of the second contingent returned he did not accompany them, but enlisted in Strathcona's Horse. With the Strathconas he chased the enemy many hundreds of miles and took part in numerous fights. In one serious engagement—the last that it was possible for him to be in—he was hit four times, one bullet entering his shoulder, another passing through his thigh, a third entering the abdomen, and finally he was knocked from his horse by a piece of a pom-pom shell. When he was out of hospital again the Strathconas had left for home and as soon as possible he followed. From Liverpool he sailed on the Wassau, a ship in which were many emigrants of different European nationalities. One day Sergeant Wrendell learned from the purser that a Canadian girl was in the steerage, and with truly soldier-like generosity he went to her and told her that she should have his stateroom for the rest of the voyage. He soon learned from her that her husband had been a soldier, a member of the first contingent, and when he had been wounded and invalided to England she had gone from their home in the

Northwest to nurse him. But he had died, and she was being sent home as a steerage passenger. To make the story short, their acquaintanceship ripened rapidly into a stronger feeling, and when they reached Montreal there was a marriage. When Sergt. Wrendell sought to announce the news of his arrival and his marriage to his parents, he learned that both his father and his mother had died since his leaving Canada.

Is There a Paper Combine?

The Dominion Government has decided to grant an inquiry into the charge preferred by the Canadian Press Association that there exists among the paper manufacturers of the Dominion a combination to enhance unduly the price of paper. A few weeks ago a deputation from the Press Association went to Ottawa and had an interview with Hon. Mr. Fielding and the Minister of Customs, when the charge that a paper trust existed and was operating to the disadvantage of the newspaper publishers was made in the most direct terms. The allegations by which this statement was supported were of such a kind that the Minister of Finance, after careful consideration of the matter, has taken the view that there is sufficient grounds to justify an inquiry under a clause in the Customs Act of 1897 which specifically gives the Government power to deal with trusts or combinations. The clause in question provides that: "Whenever the Governor in Council has reason to believe that with regard to any article of commerce there exists any trust, combination, association or agreement of any kind among manufacturers of such articles or dealers therein to unduly enhance the price of such articles or in any other way to unduly promote the advantage of the manufacturers or dealers at the expense of the consumers, the Governor in Council may commission or empower any Judge of the Supreme Court or Exchequer Court of Canada or of any Superior Court in any Province of Canada to inquire in a summary way into and report to the Governor in Council whether such trust, combination, association or agreement exists. The Judge may compel the attention of witnesses and examine them under oath, and require the production of books and papers, and shall have such other necessary powers as are conferred upon him by the Governor in Council for the purposes of such inquiry. If the Judge reports that such trust, combination, association or agreement exists, and if it appears to the Governor in Council that such disadvantage to the consumers is facilitated by the duties of customs imposed upon a like article when imported, then the Governor in Council shall place such article on the free list or so reduce the duty of it as to give to the public the benefit of reasonable competition in such article." Judge Taschereau of the Superior Court of Quebec has been appointed to conduct the enquiry.

Aerial Navigation.

It is evident that man will never be satisfied until he shall succeed in extending his dominion to the aerial regions so as to be able to navigate the air with as much confidence as he now navigates the seas. Indeed we have our doubts that he would be satisfied even then. Partial success has attended efforts in that direction. Ballooning within certain limits—or perhaps we should rather say uncertain limits—has become a practical thing. The balloonist can never be very certain when he cuts loose from the earth at what place he will return to earth again. But men have managed to float about a good deal in the air, and some considerable journeys of a more or less voluntary and definite character have been accomplished. The French appear to have a genius for ballooning. A Frenchman by the name of M. de la Vaulx has

recently, we are told, made a balloon journey between France and Russia, a distance of some 1,200 miles, in thirty-six hours, and has now in contemplation an aerial trip across the Mediterranean. Then it is reported that M. Louis Godard is ambitious to attempt a balloon trip across the Atlantic during the approaching summer. M. Godard puts his trust in the currents of air which, at a certain distance above the earth, and during the summer season, are said to flow steadily in an easterly direction between America and Europe. His idea is to start from New York, making Gibraltar his objective point. The journey, according to M. Godard's estimate, would occupy from four to eight days, or twelve days at the longest. He would have three other skilled aeronauts and six passengers to accompany him—that is if he could find so many persons ready to risk the contingencies of the voyage. We are inclined, however, to think that the Aerial Atlantic Line will not be inaugurated this year. After the example of André, one would not care to say that there are not persons rash enough to undertake the foolhardy project of crossing the Atlantic in a balloon—though one would suppose that the same example would have an influence to restrain such reckless exploits. But the expense of such an undertaking as that proposed by M. Godard would be very considerable, and it is hardly to be expected that men would risk both their money and their lives in a scheme in which to most persons there would seem to be so small grounds for expecting success. A balloon is not dirigible. Its course cannot be controlled by the aeronaut. He may hope to regulate his altitude, and if there are steady currents of air at certain distances from the earth he may be able to get his balloon into them and move with them. But the steady easterly moving currents is rather a matter of theory than of fact, and when such theories are put to the test the actual conditions are generally found to be quite different from what had been anticipated.

China.

Some correspondents of London papers, writing from China, intimate that conditions in that country are not becoming more settled, and express apprehensions as to what may be the result when the foreign forces now in the country shall be removed. The correspondent of the Standard writes from Tien-Tsin that everywhere among the Chinese there is a feeling of unrest. There is no doubt that petty attacks on foreigners continue, and it is believed that bodies of well-armed Chinese are secretly drilling. Chinese picked troops are reported in strength in the vicinity of Pao Ting Fu. Dr. Morrison, the London Times correspondent, writing from Peking, April 29, protests that Count Von Waldersee's policy of punitive expeditions has thrown the greater part of the province of Chihli into anarchy and disorder. The neighborhood of Peking, he declares, is more unsafe for foreigners than at any previous time since the occupation began. He evidently is not of the opinion that the continued presence of the foreign troops in China is making for the pacification of the country. On the contrary he considers that restitution to the Chinese of territorial jurisdiction has become a paramount necessity. Steps are now being taken by the representatives of the several powers looking to the withdrawal of their military forces at an early date, with the exception of garrisons at Peking, Tien-Tsin, etc., necessary to secure the safety of foreign residents. The statement that the total indemnity to be demanded of China amounts to £65,000,000 has been officially confirmed at Berlin. This includes all private claims. It is believed that if China will now undertake to pay this sum in indemnities, the evacuation of Pe Chi Li province can begin immediately.