

SOUNDS AND ECHOES.

THE past two seasons have developed a condition never previously known in the great wheat producing sections of Canada—hard times. The disasters which have succeeded each other so relentlessly, however, will not prove an unmitigated evil, and quite contrary results may be expected as the developments of the present season show. Among the evils which low-priced wheat are destined to correct is, first of all, that great lack of diversity so manifest in the products of an unapproachably rich soil. Already the increase in mixed farming has been considerable. The farmer is, in fact, using his head more in the conduct of his business, and, like the successful merchant, is finding out that he has got to cater to the requirements of a consuming public, and, in consequence, greater advancement may be expected during the next few years in farming than could otherwise be expected. These results are as much to be desired by the mercantile classes as any other and should be encouraged as far as feasible by the dealer, whose influence is far greater with his customers than any other, with the exception of the press.

The city of Montreal has been suffering financially, by reason of the sort of aldermen the people persistently send to the Council Chamber, but few citizens of the big commercial centre will be prepared for the justifiable, although disgraceful, suggestion made by *La Patrie* that the corporation go into the lottery business as an appropriate financial enterprise under all the circumstances.

Goderich Star: "Hon. Forbes G. Vernon, who was Commissioner of Crown Lands in British Columbia under the Davie Administration, was defeated in Yale at the recent elections. He at once resigned his portfolio, and a new man, George B. Martin, a farmer and stock-raiser, was appointed to take his place. Mr. Vernon has protested the election of his opponent. This fact is in striking contrast to the conduct of Sir Oliver Mowat and his Minister of Public Works, Mr. Harty, of Kingston. Harty's case is precisely similar to that quoted, but as his retirement would increase Sir Oliver's difficulties, the so-called Liberal Government refuses to bow to the will of the people, and persists in having the affairs of an important department administered by a man who is responsible to nobody."

A short time ago, it was reported in the *London Standard* that a shipload of Australian meat arrived in Vienna in good condition. The consignment was at once bought up by the butchers, who mostly old it as prime Austrian beef. The

Vienna Stadtrath (Executive Board of the Town Council) caused the sanitary authorities to have a sample of Australian meat chemically analyzed along with samples of fresh meat from Galicia and Hungary. The report now published states that the Australian is perfectly equal to Hungarian and Galician meat, as regards its nourishing and other qualities. It has consequently been resolved to encourage by every means the importation of Australian meat into Vienna, where, in consequence of the Hungarian and Galician cattle of the best quality being by preference sent to Germany since the new commercial treaty came into force, and because the Agrarians prevent the opening of the frontiers to Roumanian cattle, the price of meat has been continually rising, and the supply has been constantly insufficient.

A representative of the *Winnipeg Nor'-Wester* who has been making enquiries in Winnipeg at the offices of the provincial and Dominion immigration departments has elicited "very satisfactory information as to the number of settlers coming into the country this fall. The reports of these officials are confirmed by the press of the west, particularly the Edmonton, Calgary, Regina and Prince Albert papers, which speak of numerous parties of homestead hunters visiting their respective districts. 'During the past few weeks,' remarked one of the officials at the C. P. R. depot, 'not a day has passed but settlers have alighted from the express from the south. Many of them are Canadians who settled in Dakota in the seventies, when there was a great rush from western Ontario to the Northwestern states, and there are several people of foreign nationalities.'

The Indians at Bella Coola are very much pleased with the prospect of the arrival of the Norwegian colony. When Indian Agent Todd stopped there in the steamer *Vigilant* the other day he was surprised to see about 100 canoes put out. Enquiry brought out the fact that the Indians thought that the steamer had brought up the Norwegians, and they had come out to take them and their belongings ashore free of charge.

The complete breaking up of the big long raft containing 10,000 piles valued at \$35,000, which the Southern Pacific Railway company attempted to float from Stella, Washington, down the Columbia river and thence to San Francisco, seems to demonstrate that the experiment of rafting logs down the coast is a failure, as it is but a duplicate of the experience of the big cigar-shaped raft lost some time ago. Captain Thompson, of the tugboat *Monarch*, believes that he could

have successfully managed the awkward tow but for the rough weather off the Oregon coast. He crossed the bar in safety but encountered terrific seas a short distance south and off Tillamook head the raft commenced to go to pieces. The work was soon accomplished and the piles are now floating about as a menace to shipping off the Oregon coast.

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