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History Making Days in the West.

The West of the first Seventies, when the winds blowing from the mountains across a continent of plains stirred only the smoke of Indian hunting lodges and tried their swift only with the herds of buffalo, that West and the introduction to it of the Royal North West Mounted Police, was the subject of an address delivered by Col. Steele, D.O.C., "One of Canada's most distinguished soldiers and Winnipeg's most distinguished citizen," before the Women's Canadian club at Winnipeg.

Col. Steele told of his journey west with Lord Wolsley's expedition in 1870. Part of the territory under the pleasant sway of the Hudson's Bay Company, was at peace, but a great portion of the southern plains were dangerous to enter, owing to unrest among the powerful Indian tribes, an unrest that found its origin in the "whiskey posts" maintained by persons from across the line, and its climax in the Cypress hills massacre.

Indians were numerous in the Cypress hills and a band of American traders with their barter of a tin cup of bad firewater for a buffalo skin had gotten a whole encampment drunk. The camp fires gleamed from the tepees in the darkness and the Americans filled with the desire for "sport," opened fire on the lights. Thirty-two of the Indians were killed and the rest fled to the hills. The Canadian government came to with a start, and in 1873 sent out an expedition from the east. Then followed the story of one of the most marvellous feats in military history, a march of hundreds of miles through a wilderness. The grasshopper plague had struck Manitoba and carried all before it. Guides there were none and the tracks deciphered only by compass. General French had now brought up his column and patrols sent out around Sweet Grass hills had discovered no illicit forts. It was at this time that General French discovered Scout Jerry Potts, "a Scotch half-breed and one to whom direction was a sixth sense."

After a Winter at Swan River a force under Colonel McLeod was sent to what is now Fort McLeod. "Buffalo ranged ever beside us," said Col. Steele. "We left the horses close to the waggon and the soldiers rode on the outside. As far as the eye could see roamed herds of buffalo, 80,000 at one sight. We dare not stop at rivers to water our beasts until fires had been built, for we feared the terrific calamity of a buffalo stampede."

Later he related how once noting the racing of the herds the company halted. Before them rose a cloud of dust and the earth shook. The troops drew together, so many armed in front. As the great band of buffalo, for that's what it was, came near, the soldiers fired, the herd divided and thundered by on either side. Behind them came the cause of the uproar, 500 Black-foot braves, mounted on their swift running horses, and in the full mad career of a buffalo hunt.

Colonel McLeod established a barracks at McLeod, patrolled the country, gathered in the whiskey traders, and in 6 weeks restored order. One of the men brought up for trial threatened, if convicted, "to make the line hum to Washington." "Let it hum," commented the Colonel. The Indians were delighted that "the great queen had heard their cry and sent her red soldiers." The speaker told further of the government making treaty with these Indians; of the long ceremony of the passing of the pipe of peace, and of the significant refusal of Big Bear—a leader later in the Indian rebellion.

"This, then, was the initiation of the R. N. W. M. P." Col. Steele, concluded, "in a campaign when hundreds of miles of wilderness was crossed, rivers ferried in wagon box boats, barracks built by officers and men, and hand-plastered with mud, living on rations of pemmican—and from this issued a force composed of Canadians and Britishers, the R. N. W. M. P., the best on the globe."

Literary Treasures in American Libraries.

One of the world's best collections of books on Turkey and the Balkan states is in an American library. It is the famous Riant collection now in Harvard university library, and is interestingly described in a bulletin issued by the United States bureau of education. It was acquired by Harvard in 1899 and has since been added to, until today, the section on the Ottoman empire comprises about 4000 volumes.

American libraries have a very large number of valuable special collections. What is probably the most important Dante collection in existence is at Cornell, and the same institution has a collection on the French revolution that experts say can hardly be surpassed even in France. The most remarkable set of Bibles in the world, comprising a large number of first editions and unique copies, is in the library of the General Theological seminary in New York. This city also has one of the most nearly complete collections of books on Hebrew subjects, that in the Jewish Theological seminary, consisting of 33,000 volumes.

One of the finest libraries of Japanese material to be found anywhere is at Yale university. In works on mystic subjects it would be difficult to duplicate in Europe the great collection in the Masonic library at Cedar Rapids. For a great collection of works on German socialism the expert need not look to Germany. He can find it in the United States. At the Wisconsin state historical library, at Madison, is the Schlueter collection, containing many works not found even in the archives of the German social democracy in Berlin.

In music the Newberry public library of Chicago has a conspicuous collection, especially rich in works on the history and theory of music by Italian authors.

On the side of science, the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh contains about 40,000 volumes on the natural sciences and useful arts, and the Missouri Botanical Garden library at St. Louis is especially rich in monographs and floras.

These are but a few of the many collections of worldwide significance that are in American libraries.

Who introduced Potato to Britain?

Sir Walter Raleigh, whose tercentenary was commemorated recently, is generally credited with having introduced both the potato and tobacco into England, and every schoolboy has read of how his Irish servingman threw water over him on discovering him smoking in the garden of his house at Youghal.

There is, however, a fair amount of evidence to show that potatoes and tobacco were known some years before Sir Walter Raleigh popularized them. In all probability Sir Francis Drake was the first to bring the tuber that was "doing its bit" in the war from the New World. At any rate, there is a statue of Sir Francis Drake in existence with the inscription, "To the immortal introducer of the potato into Europe"—but it is in Germany (at Offenbach, Baden) and that statement is, therefore, not generally accepted.

Health Hints

Spirits of turpentine, when applied to the skin, is a very active counter-irritant; it may be rubbed upon the surface till redness results. When used upon patients whose skin is very delicate, its action may be modified by mixing with equal parts of sweet oil before applying. This combination will be found useful to apply to the skin of children.

When redness has resulted from the application, the skin should be wiped dry with a soft towel or piece of absorbent cotton, to remove the turpentine from the surface, which by its continued contact may cause blistering.

Turpentine stupes may be prepared by sprinkling spirits of turpentine over flannel cloths which have been wrung out of hot water, or by dipping hot flannel in warm spirits of turpentine; prepared in either way, the stupe should be squeezed as dry as possible, to remove the excess of turpentine before being applied to the surface of the body. A turpentine stupe may cause blistering if allowed to remain for too long a time in contact with the skin. Its application for five or ten minutes will usually produce the desired effect. It should be removed after this and applied again if desired.

If the patient complains of severe burning of the skin after use of turpentine, the painful surface should be smeared freely with vasoline or lard.

Ground mustard, or mustard flour, prepared either from white or black mustard, is one of the most commonly used substances to produce redness of the skin. It is generally employed in the form of mustard plaster, which is prepared by mixing equal parts of mustard flour with wheat flour or flaxseed meal, and adding to this sufficient warm water to make a thick paste; this is spread upon a piece of old muslin, and the surface of the paste covered with some thin material such as gauze, to prevent the paste from adhering to the skin. In making a mustard plaster for application to the skin of a child, one part of mustard flour should be mixed with three parts of wheat flour or flaxseed meal.

A mustard plaster may be allowed to remain in contact with the skin for a period varying from 15 to 30 minutes, the time being determined by the sensations of the patient; if it is allowed to remain longer, it may cause blistering, which is to be avoided, as ulcers produced by mustard are very painful and extremely slow in healing. After removing a mustard plaster, the irritated surface of the skin should be dressed with a piece of muslin or lint spread with vasoline or boric acid ointment.

When it is desired to turn the principle of a disease from the organ in which it seems to have taken its seat the mustard foot bath is often employed. This is prepared by adding two or three tablespoonsful of mustard flour to a bucket or foot-tub of water at a temperature of 100 to 110 degrees F. In this the patient is required to soak his feet for a few minutes.

Mustard papers, which can be obtained in the shops ready for use, are a convenient means of obtaining the beneficial action of mustard. They are dipped in warm water and, as they are generally very strong, it is well to place a layer of muslin between.

RIDDLES.

Why is an egg like a colt?—Both must be broken before using.

Why is it the sun rises in the east?—Because (y)east makes everything rise.

SPARKS FROM THE ANVIL

Isn't it strange that just those people who have no children and probably don't want any either, are continually "at it" showing our Legislators how the schools should be conducted. We saw that again at the misnamed "School Trustees' Convention" at Regina. I said misnamed, because it was not a body, representative of the trustees of this Province. By the way they acted it seemed a conglomeration of howlers, with a sprinkling of fair-minded men who felt as out of place as a man in a millinery department. I've been told that one of the high officials of the School Trustees' Association has no children, although long enough married to have a dozen.

Bigotry dies hard in Michigan. The Michigan bigots had set out to destroy the parochial school and made no secret of their plan. It is usually easy to kill the snake that wriggles across the garden path. It is only the snake in the grass that is dangerous. Nag, the cobra in Kipling's tale, crawled in through a drain and thereby set the fashion for nine out of ten anti-Catholic zealots. But occasionally, as in Michigan, the tenth comes out in the open, and then Rikki-tikki-tavi, the American spirit of fair play, easily breaks his writhing back.

The worst that can befall a boy is to have the liberty to stay out late at night. This is often a fatal privilege because it is mostly during the night that all mischief is planned and executed. The boys who are permitted the freedom of our public streets at all hours of the night are the boys who fill our prisons, and bring sorrow upon their relations and friends.

Because the boys bring home their earnings on Saturday night they are not free to do as they please. By no means! Parents are always "boss" in the home, and God will hold them responsible for the conduct of the children as long as they live under their roof.

Asked what he considered the biggest blunder he had made in his life, a workman replied: "Leaving school before I was through the sixth grade." There are boys at the present day in danger of making the same mistake. The lure of "big money" is tempting them to lessen their chance of advancement in years to come. How bitterly they will regret it when lack of education bars the door against desirable positions.

You cannot provide a family with loaves and fishes if you do nothing but loaf and fish.

The coal pile extends its thanks to the weatherman for the numerous warm waves he sent along this winter.

Canada calls on you!

Pay day again! Wonderful how the weeks fly around. And such pay days, too! Millions and millions more being paid in wage bills than ever before in Canada's history.

And you, Mr. Wage-Earner, how much are you saving against the day when wages will drop back to normal? If you don't bank for the future you may go bankrupt and Canada will suffer.

When you open your envelope just strip off a five, or a ten, and say: "I'll keep that in my jeans." If you can manage to save and you don't you are a slacker. Canada calls on each and every one of her sons (and daughters, too) who were not fighting, but making big money at home to Save for Reconstruction. This means you!

Canadian News

Nova Scotia

WINDSOR.—Farmers around here are shipping their turnips to an evaporating plant, where the vegetables are dried for shipment. Large quantities of these evaporated turnips are being sent to England and France. Nova Scotia produces more than 7,000,000 bushels of turnips yearly, and it is believed that the dehydration process will increase the acreage devoted to turnip raising.

HALIFAX.—The mayor and board of control of this city have addressed to Sir Thomas White, acting premier, a communication on the question of restitution for the injuries inflicted upon Halifax by the explosion on Dec. 6, 1917. The letter asserts that the funds of the Halifax relief commission are insufficient and requests that the government make complete restitution to both the city as a corporation and to the inhabitants of the city.

Mrs. Lucy Smith, 93 years old, was burned to death by fire which badly gutted the house in which she was living, at Truro.

Three men died from exhaustion and one was drowned during the rescue of the crew of the U.S. shipping board's steamer, Castalia, off Sable Island. The remaining members are safe aboard the Bergenford, en route to Bergen, Norway.

The Cunard liner Aquitania, with upwards of 5,000 returned Canadian soldiers on board, docked at Halifax Saturday.

Prince Edward Island

CHARLOTTETOWN.—Dr. J.T. Jenkins, aged 90, died here. He was a surgeon in the Crimean war, where he received the Grand Turkish Medal.

Queries and Answers

How should we make a Spiritual Communion?

We would suggest the following six points: 1, by thinking of the Blessed Sacrament; 2, by believing the Sacred Host is the Body of Jesus; 3, by inviting Jesus to come into our hearts; 4, by believing that Jesus is then present in our hearts; 5, by asking favors of Him; 6, by offering Jesus with all His merits, sufferings and death to God, the Father, for our sins.

What is the position of the Apostolic Delegate?

His office is a spiritual one, not a civil one. The Delegate is appointed by the Pope to represent him before the bishops and priests. Instructions from Rome to the Church in Canada may be communicated through the Delegate; he may receive appeals from local authorities on points of church law; he enjoys the faculties, ecclesiastical powers, that are not conceded to bishops.

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a location in suitable town for an expert German Shoemaker. Applications should be directed to ANTON DORRE, LEDUC, Alberta.

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Teacher Wanted.

The South St. Gregor School District No. 3163 requires a teacher, one that can give instruction in German. Apply to the Secy. Aug. C. Thiemann, St. Gregor, Sask.

Estray

One black mare, 4 yrs. old, fore-top clipped; one chestnut mare, white hind legs, blurred white face. Strayed early in December, weight 950 to 1000 lbs. each. Emil Lefevre, St. Brieux, Sask.

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