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Niagara From

Beneath

It is said that visitors to Niagara Falls this summer will have a new feature offered them, so novel and thrilling that it cannot fail to appeal to lovers of the grand and awe-inspiring scenery. A new scenic tunnel has been constructed from the Table Rock House out under the Horseshoe Falls, conveying visitors to a point where man has never been before. The tunnel has been driven by the Ontario Power Company for the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park Commission with this end solely in view. It has cost over \$25,000, and was inspected by the engineers and park authorities on Saturday. A shaft was sunk from the interior of the Table Rock House for 127 feet, and from the bottom a tunnel was run following the contour of the horseshoe, and coming out at a point where a great volume of water pours over the cataract. This main tunnel is over 800 feet long, and has lateral tunnels running into the gorge, affording magnificent views from the different points of observation reached. At the various observation points large rooms, with glass ends for viewing, will be constructed, and here, lounging in easy chairs, the visitors to Niagara can look upon the submarine wonders of this great cataract without fear of being wet or in any danger of their lives. Such awe-inspiring and terrible views of the force of the falling waters has never before been vouchsafed to man as those disclosed by the enterprise of the park authorities. An Otis electric elevator has been installed in the shaft capable of accommodating ten persons. It is operated by a 15 horsepower motor, direct current.

What Japanese

Soldiers Eat.

According to the statement of a correspondent of a London newspaper the food of a Japanese soldier in campaigning time consists of rice and dried fish. The preparation of the food is thus described: The rice is boiled until quite thick and glutinous. Next it is placed on a ceramic slab, rolled out and cut into squares. The squares are then placed in the sun to dry and often turned. When hard as sea-biscuit and greatly reduced in weight they can be stored. All he has to do is to break up a square in boiling water and to add the dried fish. In a few minutes he has what seems to him a delicious thick soup. If he cannot procure boiling water he simply eats his rice-cake dry. In the fruit season he substitutes fruit when he can obtain it for the fish. The Japanese soldier, M. Pichon tells me, has muscles like whipcord, is a sure shot, has an eye for landmarks and a memory for locality. He can do with three hours' sleep out of twenty-four, is clearly, attends to sanitary instructions, is ardently patriotic, holds his life cheap and runs up hills like a goat. He costs the state about 4½ a day and thinks himself well off.

Another Witness.

Rev. Dr. Morrison, a Presbyterian Missionary to the Congo Country from the United States adds his testimony to much that has previously been given in support of the charges of inhuman cruelty practiced on the natives of the Congo country by native soldiers in the employ of the King of Belgium. Speaking at Louisville, Ky., Dr. Morrison is reported as saying: "Leopold has there a native cannibal army of twenty thousand men, officered by white Belgians, and armed with repeating rifles. These men are forced into this military service. In turn this cannibal soldiery is used to compel the natives to bring in enormous tribute of ivory and Indian rubber. It is worth noting that the King of Belgium is today reputed to be the largest dealer in ivory and rubber in the world. As a result of this forced labor and military service, great and unspeakable cruelties are practiced on the native people. I have seen a number of times at least fifty thousand people fleeing into the forests to escape from the cannibal soldiers of King Leopold. I have seen these soldiers scouring through the forests and, after catching a number of men whom the government wanted as laborers, going away with the captives tied together by ropes around their necks. Raids upon villages are being constantly made, some of the people are killed and eaten, others are carried away into captivity and sold, others are forced into military service. I can buy all the slaves you want at Luebo at ten dollars and fifteen dollars apiece. When these raids are made the most awful cruelties are practised.

Innocent women and children are killed or captured, hands are cut off to be taken back to the white Belgian officers to show that the work has been well done and great sections are being depopulated. One of these raids was made near one of our mission stations—one of our missionaries went to the scene and counted eighty-one hands cut off and drying over a fire to be taken back to the Belgian officers; forty-five dead bodies were counted lying nearby."

Fruit Outlook In the Niagara.

Considering the very unusual severity of the past winter, it would not be surprising if the prospect for the fruit crop in the Niagara district of Ontario was not of the brightest. But the actual prospect, so far as can be gathered from reports, is not at all discouraging. It is said that, speaking generally, from all indications that manifest themselves to the trained observer, fruit trees have wintered well. Peaches suffered some in the more exposed places, and, as is always the case, some buds were destroyed, but there are still enough left to secure a bountiful peach crop if no untoward conditions intervene between now and harvest time. Apple trees stood the winter well and a fairly good crop is looked for. Little is yet said about pears, plums and small fruit. Some anxiety is expressed about strawberries in locations where the snow was blown off by high winds.

A Revolution in Weaving.

An invention which has taken the form of what is called the rotary loom seems to be destined to effect a revolution in weaving. The following from an article in the Toronto *Globe* will give some idea of the principle upon which this new kind of loom is constructed and of its superiority to the looms now in general use. "The driving of the shuttle back and forth between the alternately lifted threads of the warp has been the principle of all weaving as far back as the art can be traced. The rotary loom introduces a new principle, the idea of which was derived from the knitting machines now in general use. While the ordinary loom turns out from 25 to 30 yards a day, it is claimed that the rotary loom can turn out 150 yards. With the new loom there is no stopping to fill the shuttle. It occupies less floor space, is comparatively noiseless, simpler in construction, and more easily operated. The attempt to require each weaver to operate two of the old looms led to a strike in the New England mills, but it is claimed that one operator can attend to five of the new circular looms. The patent for this invention was issued in June last, and one machine has already been built and put in operation in Providence, R. I. Another claim for the new invention is the greater variety of patterns and weaves it can produce, and the many ways it can blend different grades of yarn. It may not be satisfactory for the woollen and cotton interests to contemplate a revolution in their industry. But if the claims for the new looms are reasonably sustained it will effect a complete transformation. Better work, more varied in pattern, at many times the speed, and requiring far less skilled attendance, are achievements that would change the aspect of this industry. John Stuart Mill doubted whether labor-saving machinery had ever shortened the daily toil of a human being; and it would be over-sanguine to anticipate any such result from the perfecting of a new process of weaving. But all such changes must ultimately bring more or better cloth within the reach of the average citizen. The object of all such economic changes and all economic legislation is to increase the personal results and rewards of effort. As a promise of a manifold increase in the productive power of labor in woollen and cotton mills the new device will be regarded with deep interest."

India And Its

Food Supply.

Famines have occurred in India for centuries past, and they may be expected to occur at intervals for an indefinite period to come. Much indeed is being done under government direction by the construction of irrigation works and in other ways to increase the food supply of the country and also to provide for its better distribution. But so long as the population of India remains as dense as it is periods of great scarcity and suffering may be expected. Still the resources of India, if properly developed and distributed are quite sufficient, we are told, for its present population even in times of famine. The land already cultivated are sufficient to furnish food for a larger population under normal con-

ditions and there is yet a vast area of fertile land untilled. There is always enough somewhere in India, says a recent writer on the subject, for everybody even in times of sorest distress, but it is not distributed equally, and those who are short have no money to buy from those who have a surplus. The exports of grain and other products from India continues regularly in the lean as well as the fat years, but the country is so large, the distances are so great, the facilities for transportation are so inadequate, that one province may be exporting food to Europe because it has to spare, while another province may be receiving ships loaded with charity from America because its crops have failed and its people are hungry. The results of seed time and harvest in India depend very largely on the north-west monsoons which ordinarily in all the northern part of India bring copious rains in April, May and June. These rains water the earth abundantly, and much water is drained into artificial reservoirs from which the fields are irrigated later in the summer. More than 80 per cent of the population are engaged in farming. They live from hand to mouth, having nothing to fall back upon in time of need, and as they have no money they have no means of importing food for themselves or their cattle from more fortunate sections of the country. As a rule the monsoons are very reliable, but every few years they fail, and a famine results. The government has a meteorological department, with observers stationed at several points in Africa and Arabia, and in the islands of the sea, to record and report the actions of nature. Thus it has been able of late years to anticipate the fat and lean harvests. It is possible to know almost precisely several months in advance whether there will be a failure of crops, and a permanent famine commission has been organized to prepare measures of relief before they are needed. In other words, Lord Curzon and his subordinates are reducing famine relief to a system which promotes economy as well as efficiency.

The Anglo French colonial Treaty.

The Anglo-French Colonial treaty which was signed in London on Friday last comprises three instruments. The first deals with Egypt and Morocco, the second with Newfoundland and West Africa, and the third with Siam, the New Hebrides and Madagascar. By the terms of the treaty, according to the cabled accounts, the present situation in Morocco and Egypt remains unchanged and a full agreement is reached respecting Egyptian finances. Great Britain recognizes the right of France to guard the tranquility of Morocco, while France will not impede the action of Great Britain in Egypt, and Great Britain adheres to the convention of 1888 for the neutrality of the Suez Canal. The treaty is said to contain a clause guaranteeing an equality of tariff duties in Egypt and Morocco for thirty years, and if the convention shall not be denounced before the expiration of that period, it is to remain in force for five years longer. In order to assure the freedom of the Straits of Gibraltar, it is agreed that no fortification shall be erected on the Morocco coast between Mellilla and the mouth of the Sebou river. In Newfoundland France surrenders her rights of sovereignty on the French shore, but retains the right to fish for bait. The bait bill of 1886 is modified so as to give Newfoundlanders the right to sell bait to French fishermen. In return for the concessions of France in this connection, indemnities will be paid to the owners and employes of French establishments and also to the French Government, the amount of these indemnities to be determined by the Hague tribunal. As nothing is said about the small islands, St. Pierre and Miquelon, it is to be presumed that they remain in the possession of France. In West Africa, by a territorial adjustment on the Zambesi, France gains access to the portion of the river navigable by ocean-going ships. She also gets a number of islands and a readjustment of the frontier line between the Niger and Lake Tchad, giving a route through a fertile territory. In reference to Siam, the two countries confirm the declaration of 1895 determining its precise meaning with regard to pre-existing differences. With respect to the New Hebrides, a joint commission will decide the land disputes between the inhabitants. Concerning Madagascar, Great Britain withdraws the protest made at various times against the French economic regime there. The London papers very generally express satisfaction at the conclusion of the treaty. It is felt that the concessions made to France, which are not unimportant, are far more than compensated by the guarantee of peace and amicable relations between the two nations, which the treaty has secured by the removal of all the causes of friction. Much praise is given to King Edward for having initiated the endeavor for more friendly international relations, and to President Loubet for having received the overture in a corresponding spirit.