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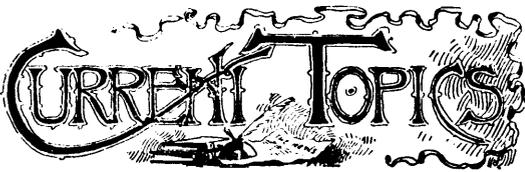
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11th APRIL, 1891.



Our Sister Dominion.

Canada offers her sincere congratulations to the "Commonwealth of Australia"; in all parts of the country the sentiments of the press show that the universal feeling at the birth of the new nation is one of pleasure. The confederation of so many colonies, representing such a large area, so much wealth, and tenanted by settlers almost exclusively of British birth or descent and presenting the best characteristics of the race, is one of the most important events of the century in the colonial world, only equalled by the union of the British North American Provinces twenty-four years ago. The present movement is a stride towards an object which is looked on with rapidly increasing favour by many of the leading minds in England and the colonies, a federation of the British Empire, in which advantages would result to all countries under the flag, of an even more substantial nature than at present exist. With the push and enterprise of the Australian people, and the activity shown in the past by the more wealthy of their colonies in naval and military matters, the new consolidation promises to take no minor position among nations. In the constitution they are adopting, and the various initial measures they will necessarily have to undertake, the federated provinces will have the benefit of learning much from the experience of Canada; they also have the advantage of dealing with a people less wedded to race and religious prejudices. The growth of Australia has been phenomenal; and there is every reason to expect that the ratio of increase in population and wealth will be steadily maintained. It is pleasing to note that the federating conference gave an almost unanimous vote in favour of a strong link of British connection—the appointment of a Governor-General by the Sovereign. Apart from sentiment, they know that British citizenship means protection, and power and honour.

Immigration.

The significance and strength of the movement now going on in Dakota, by which settlers from that state are leaving in large numbers for Manitoba, is best shown by the characteristic treatment meted out by the residents of the town of Eureka, S.D., to MR. KENDRICKSON, a Canadian immigration agent. The report that he had been treated to a new suit of tar and feathers and a prolonged jaunt on a rail turns out to be incorrect; he was only ordered out of the place; but these details, though personal, are minor, and only bring out the playful and patriotic spirits of the townspeople. That the immigration is on a large scale, and is genuine, is evidenced by a Manitoba paper, which filled several of its columns with the names of the converts from republicanism; and by the fact that the governor of the state found it necessary to lend his eloquence to the service, by going on a lecturing tour to try and counteract the efforts of the Cana-

dian agents. Eastwards we see that the number of emigrants already arrived this season from Great Britain is very largely in excess of that of the corresponding period in 1890; and that the prospects for the present season are excellent. A pleasing feature of this is that so far the class of new-comers is a very good one, being largely composed of small tenant farmers, who come here with some means, and prepared to take up land. These are the people Canada wants. The United States are welcome to the Hungarians, Poles, Italians and others of that class; they are, as a rule, wretchedly poor, make very poor settlers, and bring with them many of the vices and socialistic tendencies which have caused such trouble to their hosts already. Renewed efforts should, however, be made by our government to induce more of the hardy German and Norwegian races to remain here; the preference they show for the Western States must be due largely to their ignorance of the superior advantages offered by Canada, or to the mis-statements dinned into their ears by energetic American agents on the relative advantages offered by the two countries. Every means should be employed to counteract these impressions, and bend the steps of these sturdy men of northern Europe to our magnificent western prairies.

A Fire-Eating ex-Minister.

One of the most remarkable additions to the magazine literature of the day is the article by MR. PHELPS, formerly the American representative at the Court of St. James, on the Behring Sea question, in Harper's Monthly. In the strongest manner he endeavours to maintain the now rather obsolete claims of MR. BLAINE in favour of the United States possessing the sole right to the seal fishery. His argument is an extraordinary one. He practically claims that the seals are wholly and entirely American property, living solely on American territory; calmly dismissing, with a stroke of his pen, the passage of the animals through the high seas, and practically denying what has hitherto been the universal belief, that the destination and domicile of the seals after leaving the breeding islands is entirely unknown, even to the closest students of their habits. We fear that in spite of the respect in which MR. PHELPS is held for his standing in the scientific world, full proofs will be necessary to enable the skeptical generation of to-day to share his belief. He has built on the sand; and the uncertainty of his position is approached only by that of the animal he is so patriotically anxious to claim. But MR. PHELPS does not stop at this. He is evidently an ardent admirer of the great Napoleon, in that he views force as the only proper and gentlemanly way to settle a little difference; arbitration he considers quite incompatible with national dignity. To some, this blood thirstiness may seem cruel; but in the light of history, his conviction shows him to be a man who will sacrifice everything rather than forego one jot or tittle of his fixed principles. The disputes of his country with Great Britain that have been submitted to the eye or nay of an arbiter have been so almost invariably settled in favour of the former, that for an American to advocate war when arbitration is possible, is to show supreme defiance for the national tradition; the chances being about a thousand to one that the European jealousy of England would result in a verdict totally opposed to that power. MR. PHELPS reminds us of that countryman of his, also an ardent patriot, who publicly expressed his cheerful willingness to sacrifice all his wife's relations for his bleeding country. While confessing that "a large share of the best intelligence of its own country" is diametrically opposed to the policy of that country's government, he implores that "best intelligence" to sink its convictions to the support of what it must consider to be a totally false line of action. In thus urging the United States to enforce the claims of war, and war alone, the ex-minister must either entertain the most deplorably hopeless view of his country's case in the matter, or else is burning to lay low the haughty Saxon, whom he would probably have an excellent chance to tackle, when the said Saxon was engaged in shelling the city of New York.

The Dominion Illustrated Prize Competition, 1891.

QUESTIONS.

THIRD SERIES.

- 13.—Give particulars of the mention of one of the first proprietors of the Island of Montreal?
- 14.—State the name of a retired officer in the British Army, who is an artist.
- 15.—Where is it mentioned that tea is intoxicating?
- 16.—In what article and under what name is mention made of a new magazine, whose main object will be to aid in ameliorating the sufferings of the poor.
- 17.—Give details of the mention of a great defeat sustained by France in 1692.
- 18.—On what page appears an item relative to a portage of fifty miles through the woods?

NOTE.--All the material necessary for correctly answering the above questions can be found in Nos. 131 to 143 of the "Dominion Illustrated," being the weekly issues for January, February and March.