

Messenger and Visitor.

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Honor for Ontario. Those who visited the Horticultural Building on the Pan American fair grounds will no doubt recall the fine exhibit of the Province of Ontario, and Canadians generally will feel a pardonable pride in learning that the results of the judging in the Horticultural department of the exhibition indicate that the place of honor among all competitors belongs to Ontario. No less than twenty gold medals, thirty-two silver medals, thirty-eight bronze medals and eighty honorable mentions come to Ontario. Some of the notable victories won were gold medals on honey, on general excellence of all the fruit shown; two on cold storage apples of 1900, taken out on Aug. 17, 1901, ninety-seven per cent sound; also silver medal for installation of exhibit, a similar medal being awarded to California. It is notable that Florida, California, Delaware and other notable fruit producing states, stand away down the list in their total awards when compared with Ontario.

Canadian Oats and Hay for South Africa. Among other freight which is to be shipped from St. John during the present season, there will be, it is said, half a million bushels of oats for the use of the British cavalry horses in South Africa. This grain is purchased in Alberta by the War Office, the order being placed through Professor Robertson, Commissioner of Agriculture for Canada. The price paid is 27 cents per bushel f. o. b. at all stations between Calgary and Edmonton, which will net the farmers about 24 cents per bushel, the dealers getting three cents for cleaning and handling. Professor Robertson reports that the crop of oats in Alberta is an excellent one, and, as a result of very favorable weather for harvesting and threshing, the grain is in fine condition. It is also stated that contracts have been made on behalf of the Imperial authorities for 15,000 additional tons of hay to be sent out to South Africa in the month of December, and the oats will go on the hay steamers. The entire shipment is expected to be away by January 10 at latest.

Ancient Things Discovered. The spade of the archeologist continues to bring to light long hidden things of great interest in the far east. A late issue of the Independent has some account of a recent very important discovery by Dr. Koldeway who has been at the head of the German expedition which for nearly two years has been digging on the site of ancient Babylon. The find in this case is the famous throne room of Nebuchadnezzar, magnificent in its proportions, being 18 meters in width and 52 meters in length, [The meter is about 39 inches] and directly opposite the entrance is the niche where once stood the throne of that great ruler. "On both sides of the niche are still seen the remnants and remains of the former splendor of the room, magnificently colored decorations on the wall that are of great importance for the history of art. In addition to this work in the old castle, or *Kasr*, and along the old processional street of Marduk, the Germans have been unearthing the treasures of the city proper, near the modern village of Jimjima, and in a comparatively short time have found an abundance of new tablets with important inscriptions, which, according to Dr. Weissbach, the Assyriologist of the expedition, contain letters, psalms, contracts, word lists, etc., all documents that appeal to the interest of wide circles and will directly or indirectly add to the material that can be used for the interpretation of the Old Testament, both historically and linguistically. In the near future the work is to be extended to the hill called Auram-bar-Alli, and the excavation of this unique

Pantheon of the Babylonian metropolis which lies so deeply embedded in the ruins of centuries promises rich returns." The work of the expedition is not to be restricted to Babylon but will be extended to the hills of Fara and Abu Halab near Nippur which are believed to belong to a period dating from the fourth millennium before Christ and are expected to furnish data for the earliest history of mankind.

Mr. Carnegie and the City Council of Saint John. The City Council of Saint John has adopted resolutions which mean the acceptance of what is understood to be Mr. Andrew Carnegie's offer—in response to a solicitation of the Mayor—of \$50,000 for a library building in St. John, on the condition that the city provide a site and \$5,000 a year for the maintenance of the library. The action taken was by a large majority, but after a lively discussion and in face of the very vigorous protest of two of the members of the Council—Messrs. Baxter and Armstrong. The arguments urged against the acceptance of the Carnegie offer appear to have been principally that the methods by which the Carnegie millions were accumulated were open to objection on moral grounds and that passages in a book written by Mr. Carnegie are insulting to Great Britain and to Canada. We are not sufficiently acquainted with either Mr. Carnegie's book or his business methods to offer an opinion upon these points. A good many members of the city council seemed to be in a similar position, but evidently they did not feel embarrassed by their lack of information. We certainly should rejoice to see our city have a \$50,000 library building, but apart from any question as to how Mr. Carnegie made his money or how he feels and writes about Canada, we confess to a feeling that the boon will be secured at some sacrifice of self-respect. We should rejoice much more over an offer of one half or even one quarter of the money if it were the gift of one or more of our own townsmen. The acceptance of money for public purpose from a source so emphatically external will have an effect the reverse of stimulating on local public spirit, and under all the circumstances the affair looks a little too much like going a begging. If Mr. Carnegie accumulated his immense wealth dishonestly and holds unfriendly feelings toward this country, these are additional and weighty reasons why this city should not wish to receive his gifts.

Immigration. Considering the great extent and resources of Canada, the large areas of fertile lands still unsettled, the healthfulness of the climate, the security of life and property, the excellence of our political and social institutions, and the freedom from tyranny in any form, which the citizens of this country enjoy, it is remarkable that people dwelling amid the crowded populations of the old world have not found their way to Canada in greater numbers. The returns for recent years show that immigration is increasing from year to year, but at no very rapid rate, while the census figures show that for the last decade of the century the loss by emigration must have more than counterbalanced the gain by immigration. The returns for the past fiscal year show that nearly 50,000 persons came into Canada during the year ending June 30. How many of these remain permanently and how many cross over into the United States the returns of course cannot show. One encouraging feature is that there is now quite a considerable immigration into our Northwest country from the United States, and these are said to be a superior class of settlers. The immigration from the United States last year reached 18,000. Of those who came by ocean ports 9,331 were English, 833 Irish, 1,476

Scotch, 520 Germans, 838 Scandinavians, 492 French and Belgian, and 17,572 from other European countries.

Where Responsibility Lies

Whatever opinions may be held in respect to the causes leading to the Boer war and wherever the responsibilities for the bloody strife may be principally located, it is difficult to see upon what grounds anyone can attempt to justify the conduct of the Boer leaders in prolonging the agony of the conflict by the guerrilla warfare which they are now carrying on. The South Africa Republics made the appeal to arms, declaring war upon Great Britain at a time most favorable for their interests. They believed they were able to drive the British into the sea and reestablish the Boer authority over all South Africa. They greatly deceived themselves. Their forces have been beaten back from every point of vantage, their capital cities taken, their governments disorganized, their resources consumed and three-fourths of their soldiers put *hors de combat*. It cannot be disputed that when it became evident that the Boers' appeal to arms had proved futile, the British Government was ready to grant the conquered people as liberal terms—and probably much more liberal—than any other nation would have accorded to them under the circumstances. It was clearly the duty of the Boers, according to all the usages of civilized warfare and all moral considerations, to accept the inevitable and make the best terms they could with their conquerors. In view of this it is certainly a most remarkable thing how so many Englishmen can charge the sufferings of the concentration camps and the miseries of the prolonged war upon the British management and deal so tenderly with the Boer leaders to whom all these miseries are principally chargeable. Doubtless the lives of Boer women and children are being cruelly sacrificed in unsanitary concentration camps, and it is Mr. Kruger and the other Boer leaders who have refused reasonable terms offered the conquered and have prolonged the war unnecessarily and hopelessly, who are first and principally their murderers. There is enough in this war, its beginnings, its progress and its results, humiliating to the people of the British Empire, but certainly that is no reason why any Briton should blind his eyes to the fact of the part which the unreasonable jealousy and the insane obstinacy of the Boers have played in the beginning and prolongation of the war, with all its attendant miseries.

The Weather in Great Britain.

Various kinds of bad weather have prevailed in England of late. The gales which have swept the coasts have caused much loss of shipping and life, while the dense fogs and very unusual frosts have resulted in much embarrassment to business and some loss of life. Last week closed with from 12 to 20 degrees of frost, unprecedented at the season, and a dense fog prevailing over most parts of the country. Railroad traffic in and around London was seriously interfered with and collisions were reported at several points. All traffic on the Thames was at a stand-still, and several accidents had preceded the stoppage. In South London the fog had rendered traffic almost impossible and cross-river traffic was almost suspended. Sailings were postponed and arriving vessels anchored outside the Mersey. In some parts of the country there was ice sufficient for skating. A London despatch of Monday says: Saturday's fog, which has been general throughout the United Kingdom, was responsible for many accidents and fatalities. The driver of a London omnibus was found dead on his box while the vehicle was still running. He was a victim of cold and fog.