

THE COLONIST.

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ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

Notes and Comments.

1893 PROMISES to be a year of great activity in railway construction in Western Canada.

THE C. P. R. is offering prizes in the public schools of the provinces of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick for the best papers on the Canadian Northwest.

IN the Manitoba Legislative Assembly the Hon. Treasurer McMillan delivered his budget speech on February 20th. This showed that the province is in a very satisfactory financial condition.

THE McCormick Manufacturing Co., of Chicago, is said to contemplate establishing a branch of its great factory for harvesting machinery in Canada. An agent of the company is at present seeing Hamilton aldermen on the subject.

ONE of the events of last month in Winnipeg was the Y.M.C.A. convention which was held between the dates February 9th and 12th. The reports from the various branches of the Association showed very satisfactory progress during the past year.

A VALUABLE bulletin was issued last month by the Ontario Department of Agriculture on "The Making of Roads," the matter for which was prepared by Jas. A. Bell, P.L.S., C.E. This is the most intelligent treatise on the subject that we have yet seen.

THE Dominion Government has appointed three new Government agents in the old country, namely, W. G. Stewart, of Inverness, Peter Fleming, of Dundee, and Ernest J. Wood, of Birmingham. These will devote most of their attention to disseminating information regarding the resources of the Dominion.

THE supplement to the *Lancaster Guardian* of February 4th contained an extended notice of a lecture which was delivered by Mr. A. J. McMillan, agent in the United Kingdom for the Manitoba Government, before a large audience, in that city, on "Manitoba, its Resources and Development." The lecture was illustrated with magic lantern views of Canadian life.

THE COLONIST received last month from Mr. J. A. Chipman, of Nova Scotia, who is acting secretary of the association, a pamphlet prospectus of the Canadian West India Trading Association Ltd. This company is being organized with a view to promoting trade between Canada and the West India Islands on the co-operative plan.

It has been decided to send another expedi-

tion to the Labrador coast, under the charge of Dr. Grenfell, to work in a medical mission capacity for about four months. This step has been decided upon in response to the evident need of such assistance among the fishermen. The Newfoundland Government in recognition of the importance of the mission has decided to make a grant of money to the work.

THE *Winnipeg Tribune* made a statement a few days ago to the effect that a combine had been formed by the big lumbering companies operating on the Lake of the Woods. The aggregate annual output of these mills is something like 65,000,000 feet, and they practically control the market of Manitoba and the Territories. A combine it is claimed would effect a great saving in running expenses and permit of a reduction in prices.

AMONG the recent parliamentary dispatches from Ottawa was the following. "President Van Horne, R. B. Angus, James Burnett, E. B. Osler, B. H. Bethune, M. C. Hammond and Thomas Skinner are asking for incorporation under a Dominion act and for power to take over the property of the Canada Northwest Land company, the organization which under the presidency of Lord Elphinstone relieved the railway company of a large quantity of its land. That company was originally incorporated under Imperial authority. The capital is fixed at \$7,443,875."

THE recent damaging of the Allan line Steamship *Pomeranian* in a storm at sea, shows that it is not beyond the range of possibilities for one of these modern floating palaces to get damaged in a bout with old Father Neptune. The *Pomeranian's* experience was an exceptionally trying one, and the only wonder is that she was not completely wrecked. It speaks well for the build and management of the vessel that she stood the usage. The sad part of the affair is that a number of valuable lives were lost, her captain's among the number.

THE following item from the *Canadian Gazette* of London, England, assures Canadians that the Dominion is receiving the attention of the press of at least one country in Europe: "In view of the desirable nature of the Scandinavian settlements already made in Canada, and the absence of any hindrance upon continued Scandinavian emigration to Canada during the coming season, it is gratifying to note the interest evoked by the press of Norway in the progress of Canada. The *Christia-*

nia Post, the leading journal of the country, has for some weeks past devoted one and a half columns of its space to Canadian news, devoting special attention to the development of the Canadian Northwest and the prosperity of the Scandinavian settlements there."

ONE of the most unique and interesting entertainments ever given in Winnipeg was the mock parliament by a number of ladies in the Bijou Opera house, February 9th. The originators of this affair are prominent among those who advocate Woman Suffrage, and this entertainment was the outcome of a desire to further that reform. The parliament, while in course of preparation, excited a great deal of interest and from the first was assured of a large audience, especially as it was understood that the members of the local legislature, which was in session in the city at the time, would attend in a body. The parliament was conducted after the manner of a real House every detail being complete, with the addition to the opening ceremony of prayers. The debate of the evening was on the second reading of "A Bill to Amend the Manitoba Elections Act, providing that females as well as males shall be eligible to sit in the Legislative Assembly and to vote for members thereof." Some really able speeches were made on both sides of the question, leaving no doubt in the mind of the audience that as far as ability to speak is concerned the women are not behind the men. Needless to say the bill passed its second reading. The affair is likely to be repeated in the near future.

NOTHING has occurred in connection with British politics for a number of years which excited a greater interest than did Mr. Gladstone's introductory speech on his proposed Irish Home Rule legislation, delivered on the 13th of February. This speech was awaited with great interest by almost the entire English speaking world, as it was to give the first inkling of the plan by which Mr. Gladstone hopes to settle the Irish question—the most important question of government before any people on the earth to day. The plan is now before the world, it is being commended and condemned, in about equal proportions by the press and people of the British Empire. Whether the scheme, when presented in the definite shape of a bill, will commend itself to a majority of the House of Commons or not is a very difficult matter to judge, but its friends are going to make a very hard fight for it at all events.