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and Editor.

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Our Immigration Problem.

The Globe yesterday contained a most interesting interview with Rev. Dr. Robertson, superintendent of Presbyterian missions in the Northwest, on the subject of immigration. The doctor is qualified to speak with some authority on this problem, by reason of his long residence in the Northwest and his intimate acquaintance with people of all classes there. He has closely watched the tide of immigration pouring into that great country and has purposely mixed with the foreigners to observe their manners and customs. In his opinion they are mostly all excellent settlers. The Mennonites are clearly in their habits and are building comfortable houses for themselves and providing separate places for their live stock. They are getting over the custom of keeping the stock in their living apartments. The Galicians, he says, are not so cleanly as the Mennonites, but Dr. Robertson believes they will be quick to imitate and to adapt themselves to the habits of Canadian people. The Galician girls make good servants, being clean, neat and tidy. Their wages invariably go to help their parents. Dr. Robertson says that the Doukhobors, though illiterate—which is not surprising seeing they have been hunted like partridges in their native land—seem to be thrifty, intelligent and very industrious and hardworking. The Icelanders have proven very satisfactory settlers. They adapted themselves very readily to the new conditions. The Swedes and Norwegians in these respects resemble the Icelanders very much. Dr. Robertson does not like the present system of "hiving" the new foreign settlers—i.e., placing each nationality together on blocks of land—although he sympathizes with the desire of these strangers in a strange land to be located side by side, where the same language can be spoken. He thought the future of the country would be better assured if there was a liberal sprinkling of Canadian and British people among the foreigners. The latter would be the sooner accustomed to Canadian habits and ideas. To promote assimilation Dr. Robertson further urges that the text books and language of instruction be in English, as is already the case. It would be also a great help if, among these foreigners, there were ministers who were loyal in sentiment and anxious to have their flock become Canadians as rapidly as possible. Again, intermarriage would have a strong effect in inspiring these people with a Canadian sentiment. Dr. Robertson advocates moving slowly in the matter of conferring the full rights of citizenship on the new settlers. They have not been accustomed to responsible government, and until they have learned our language and can understand the genius of our institutions it would be well to keep them as they are. If the franchise is conferred upon them too soon they may get into the hands of demagogues who will use them for purposes of their own.

Dr. Robertson aptly likens the Dominion to a huge dumb-bell, the two big ends being the east and the west, and the handle being the uninhabitable strip north of Lake Superior. Unless there is a thorough assimilation, the Dominion, nationally speaking, may be in danger of breaking at Lake Superior in case of any strain or stress. Suppose any trouble were to come with the United States, how would the strain result in the Western Canada? Dr. Robertson admitted that if the Americans knew there were six, eight or ten million loyal people on the north side of the boundary ready to defend their country, they would not think of invading Canada. But if the Americans knew that a number of Canadians were disaffected, the conditions would be changed. Dr. Robertson adds:

"Bear in mind another fact—that hundreds and thousands of Americans are coming in and locating where these foreigners are settled, and you can readily understand that the conditions are aggravated. Mind you, I think that the people coming from the other side are loyal, and will yield obedience to our laws. I should be sorry to think otherwise; but it is not difficult to see where their sympathies would go in case of international difficulty unless there has been a real assimilation. Hence the Government should strive to create the conditions under which assimilation can go on most quickly and rapidly. When the foreigners come to understand the rights and privileges which the constitution confers, the large amount of liberty they enjoy and the fact that they are going to govern themselves—that will help them very much, and tend to increase their desire to understand English."

Dr. Robertson has talked over these matters to Mr. Sifton. No doubt the Minister of the Interior fully appreciates the situation, and will address himself to it with the zeal and foresight which he has put into every sphere of duty. The tide of emigration has at last set in strongly toward our great Northwest, and the problem of populating those vast areas is in a fair way to solution. It will remain for Canadian statesmanship to consolidate the various elements of the population by measures wisely designed to give all an improving interest in the country, and so foster the spirit of Canadian nationality.

The current London-made joke is about the Emperor of Germany, and it has a point. It is to the effect that the Kaiser, having expressed the hope during Kipling's illness that the life of the writer might, in the mercy of Providence, be spared, has now, since Mr. Kipling's recovery, conferred the Order of the Black Eagle on Providence.

Western Ontario Tobacco.

It is said the tobacco growers of Western Ontario will form a joint stock company and will pay particular attention to the adaptation of their product to the British market. This is the proper course—in fact, the only course, if tobacco cultivation is to survive at all. The experience this year has shown that the Canadian market will not absorb the whole output of native leaf, and that an outlet for the surplus must be found in the British market. There the Canadian tobacco must meet the American competition. Any further tariff advantages in the home market would be unavailing, not only because higher duties would encourage smuggling, but because the selling price is fixed in the British market, and the Canadian grower must bring his cost of production below that price if tobacco is to be a permanent and profitable crop in this country. According to the English expert, Mr. F. V. Chalmers, who visited the Essex tobacco district, the Canadian growers have much to learn. He pronounced the quality of the native tobacco as good, bad and very bad. Much of it was unfit for use, and it was not packed to suit the English market. Mr. Chalmers, however, admitted that Canadian farmers had an opportunity to raise a good class of tobacco, but it needed time. He even bought a few choice lots at 10 cents per pound, and pronounced it equal to the Kentucky or Virginia leaf.

The lesson is one which Canadian farmers have had to learn in other departments, and they have learned it well. Canadian cheese, butter and other products have won their way into the British market only by careful and unremitting attention to the wants of British consumers, and if Canadian tobacco fails to do the same it will be the fault of the producers. They have the assurance of experts that a first-class article can be grown in Canada, and all it needs is proper methods of cultivation, curing and packing, to recommend it to British purchasers.

It is 17 long years since the gerrymander was perpetrated, but today its doom will be sealed.

The Bank of Montreal has announced a profit of 11 per cent for the past year. Owing to the activity of safe-crackers, bank dividends for the ensuing year are liable to fluctuate.

Three bells have been cracked during the Dreyfus debates in the French Chamber of Deputies. The number of deputies who have shared the same fate is beyond computation.

Another big steamship has grounded between Quebec and Montreal. The frequency of these mishaps is alarming. Unless the channel can be made safer we shall begin to think the transportation problem lies east and not west of Montreal.

The coal output in Great Britain last year was 202 million tons, and of the United States 178 million. The mineral productiveness of the British Isles, considering their small area and the length of time their mines have been worked, is almost incredible. It upsets all predictions of their ultimate exhaustion.

Dr. Sproule has given notice in the House of Commons for a motion calling for a Government bounty on beet sugar manufactured in Canada for the next ten years, and for the remittance for the same period of duty on machinery used in sugar manufacture and not made in Canada. There can be no serious objection to the remission of the duty on machinery, but the House should summarily reject the idea of a bonus. The principle is bad, and the sugar tax is too heavy now.

There was a striking exhibit of Britain's naval prowess in Italian waters last month. When the King and Queen of Italy sailed into the Bay of Aranci, Sardinia, they found that of the 21 first and second class cruisers assembled in their honor, 14 were British and 7 Italian, and this in an Italian harbor! The British squadron was not augmented for the occasion, but was the regular Mediterranean force, and included some of the most powerful battleships in the world.

The New England Shoe and Leather Association are unanimously asking that the duty be thrown off hides. The Dingley tariff on hides is 15 per cent, but the benefit goes not to the cattle-raisers, but to the big meat-packers. The duty is rightly regarded as a tax on the leather business, but the leather and shoe interests will have to fight hard to get it abolished, as the meat packers have a strong pull at Washington (vide the embalmed beef investigations). In Canada hides are wisely placed on the free list, so as not to handicap our large and growing leather industry.

The Board of Works, owing to the scanty sum at their disposal, had decided not to make ward appropriations this year, but to spend the money where it was most needed. Some of the members became suspicious of that Ald. Douglass was grabbing most of it for No. 3 ward, so the Council last night divided the funds almost equally among the six wards. One would think that this year, above all others, the aldermen would refrain from interfering with the streets department. It is absolutely necessary that every dollar should be spent where it is most required, and the city engineer should be free to exercise his judgment. Now what little money there is will be spent in the interests of the aldermen, and not of the city generally. It will all ways be the same under the miserable ward system.

What Others Say.

The Expanding West.

(Nelson Economist.)

The building boom in Nelson continues unabated. By autumn fully 200 new houses will have been erected.

A Common Scold.

(Kingston Whig.)

Hon. Mr. Blair refers to Sir Charles Tupper as a common scold. The old man's egotism is developing with his age, and his own party is finding it difficult to stand him.

Paris Prospering.

(Brantford Expositor.)

The Penman Company of Paris today employs 610 hands. In June, 1896, it gave employment to 230. After this fashion is the Liberal trade policy destroying the industries of Brant county.

Barring Married Women.

(Kingston Whig.)

"Women who are married," it is announced, "are no longer eligible to teach in the New York public schools." Why? The superintendent of schools explains that "they have not yet been sufficiently evolutionized to serve God, teach school and support a husband." Evidently, in New York, the sphere of the married woman has been considerably enlarged.

Salisbury's Diplomacy.

(Simcoe Reformer.)

Bismarck on one occasion said that the Marquis of Salisbury "is only a lath painted to look like iron." The German Chancellor made a big mistake. There is no statesman in Europe today who has more iron and sand in him than the British Premier. To this is added a wisdom and prudence that puts him at the head of diplomatists. His diplomatic triumphs are notable, and his dealings with France have been marked with a skill and success not often attained.

Light and Shade.

A little vanity and a little gratification of the senses. These are what make up the life of the majority of women and of men.

A Natural Inference.

Maudie's papa is night editor on a newspaper, a fact which Maudie apparently hasn't learned; for when someone asked her a few days ago what her father did for a living, she replied: "I div it up. I fink he's a burglar, 'cause he's out all night."

No Choice.

"Goodness! Why do you let your finger-nails grow that way, Grimshaw?" "Because that's the only way they'll grow."—Chicago Tribune.

What stops my despair? This: 'Tis not what man does which exalts him, but what man would do.—Robert Browning.

Dramatic Economy.

"Won't it be very expensive to serve an entire dinner in the play?" "No; I've fixed it so that the host will have apoplexy during the second course."

MILITIA CHANGES

General Orders Affecting No. 1 District Corps.

Ottawa, May 16.—Militia general orders gazetted are as follows:

Twenty-first Battalion, Essex Fusiliers—To be captain, Second Lieut. C. H. Kent, vice W. H. Russell, retired; Lieut. G. F. Pousette having left limits, his name is removed from the list of officers of the active militia. Lieut. E. C. Henning resigns his commission. To be lieutenants, Second Lieut. D. C. Cheyne, vice C. H. Kent, promoted; A. P. Jell, vice G. F. Pousette, retired; R. B. Bowden, vice F. H. Laing, promoted. To be second lieutenant provisionally, Sergt. G. R. S. Phillips, vice A. P. Jell, promoted.

Twenty-second Battalion Oxford Rifles—Superintendent, provisional, Second Lieut. H. Beattie, retired. Twenty-sixth Battalion, Middlesex Light Infantry—Capt. B. C. Garnett, having reached the age limit, is retired under the provisional regulations and orders for the militia, 1898, and is permitted to retain rank of captain on retirement. To be captain, Lieut. C. G. Garnett, vice H. C. Garnett, retired. To be lieutenant, Second Lieut. C. T. Pigot, vice C. G. Garnett, promoted; B. H. Keating, vice A. V. Becher, promoted; provisionally, Second Lieut. W. D. Whitehead, retired. To be second lieutenant, provisionally, A. Bodley, gentleman, vice W. D. Whitehead, retired.

Twenty-ninth Battalion, Waterloo Infantry—To be second lieutenant provisionally, D. A. Dickson, gentleman, vice A. H. Miller, retired.

Thirty-first Battalion, Grey Infantry—To be second lieutenant, provisionally, J. McD. Telford, gentleman, vice M. Duncan, retired.

NEW PEACH PEST

Red Ants Destroying Thousands of Trees in Berrien, Mich.

St. Joseph, Mich., May 16.—Red ants are stripping the foliage of thousands of young peach trees. For years back hundreds of the trees have died, and the cause was attributed to inferior stock or soil. It is now thought to be the work of the ants, which encircle the trunks of trees by the thousands, and in a few minutes crawl upon the leaves, which cannot be seen for the pest. The pests work mostly at night. Many of the leading growers, in hopes of saving trees, have encircled the trunks within a foot of the ground with cotton, which the ants cannot crawl over.

A Publisher's Statement.

"We have used Hood's Sarsaparilla in our family as a spring medicine tonic and blood purifier, and Hood's Pills for biliousness, and have found both very effective remedies. We believe for impure blood Hood's Sarsaparilla is a good medicine." R. S. Felton, publisher of the Bee, Atwood, Ont.

Hood's Pills give strength, even while their cathartic qualities are at work. Easy to take.

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Special 39c

Unbleached Table Damask, 68 and 70-inch, pure linen, regular price 75c and 85c.

Special 49c and 59c

Unbleached Huckaback Towels, fringed or hemmed end, pure linen, Irish make, regular 35c a pair.

Special 25c a Pair

36-inch Fine White Cotton, full bleached, pure finish, regular price 11c.

Very Special 8 1-2c

36-inch American Lonsdale Cambric, regular price 12½c.

Special 10c

Special value in Gray Cotton, 4 1-2c, 5c, 6 1-2c, 7 1-2

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Elegant French Organdie Muslins, colored, very special at

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Very special 15c

This line will go quickly as it's well worth 25c.

Mercerised Sateens, black grounds, white and heliotrope shadings, very fine and

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Striped and Checked Zephyrs for waists, in blue, pink, cardinal, heliotrope, and black and white.

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English Cambrics, wide, medium and narrow stripes, in cardinal, cherry, pink, navy and black and white.

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English Ducks, Drills and Galateas, in plain and striped light blue, dark blue and cardinal.

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