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The Report of the Labour Commission recently submitted to Parliament contains facts and conclusions of the utmost importance to all who are concerned or interested in Canadian industry. It is twofold, the Commissioners, as so often happens in such cases, being unable to agree on certain points. Consequently we have a document signed by a minority, as well as that which expresses the views of most of the Commissioners. The range of subjects covered by the Commission's inquiries is most comprehensive—including the employment and treatment of children—a branch of the investigation which comprises some dark passages—strikes and kindred labour contests, the apprentice system and other vexed questions. The Report reveals no such distress as that which the "Sweating" Commission has been bringing to light in England, nor does the competition of which workers of either sex in Canada have to take account approach in its crushing and ruthless reality the cruel rivalry of the imported foreign element of the English cities. Nevertheless, there are grievances to redress, and it may be that the safest plan to ensure them constant and prompt attention, before they become intolerable and a menace to society, is to place our labour interests, as proposed, in charge of a single responsible Minister of the Crown. With this subject we shall deal more fully in a future issue.

It is pleasant to see that the movement for the development of our resources, if it sometimes lags, never comes to an utter pause. During the last few months we see by English exchanges that Canada's phosphate deposits are attracting more attention than ever before. A few weeks ago a new and important discovery of gold was reported from Nova Scotia. There seems to have been some exaggeration, or else those interested thought that silence, as the proverb indicates, would be more in harmony with such a find. Whether that be so or not, there is not the slightest doubt that Canada is rich in that precious metal to an extent that might, under other auspices, be made the basis of several Eldorados. Already British Columbia has yielded considerably over \$50,000,000 in gold—the bulk of it being attributed to the Cariboo region. In this province what gold there is has never been properly worked. The opinion has been expressed by mineralogists that, in skilful hands, the Chaudière Valley might be made one of the richest mining districts in the Dominion. Our coal fields, those of the North-West especially, have also been receiving attention in the old world. According to the *London Times*, some samples of

coal from the seams of the Canadian Anthracite Company, in the Cascade District of the Bow River Pass, has lately been graded as "No. 1 free-burning white-ash anthracite." It is expected that the whole vast area will soon be opened up by the employment of British capital.

"The cry of the crofter" was not the least sad or the least urgent of the appeals which, in our day, the Old World has made to the New. It is some cause for satisfaction to know that, notwithstanding some initial blunders, Canada's contribution to the relief of the sufferers is not likely to prove unsuccessful. In what essential respects "crofter colonization" differs from the colonization of any small farmers (those of Ireland or of England for instance) we are not prepared to say. But the term is a convenient one, and it has come to be adopted for a scheme of emigration which, by a little timely help, places a family in its new home with prospects of assured independence, which, if left to itself, it could hardly entertain. The term colonization is properly applied to it, as the emigrants are sent out in colonies to the same district, instead of being left to go their ways at haphazard. As yet it cannot be confidently said that the scheme has fulfilled all the expectations of its promoters, but there is no reason to complain, and another year or two will decide whether the plan is the best available.

We hear so much of the struggle for existence in these days (and a terribly close hand-to-hand fight it is sometimes) that it is a welcome diversion when our thoughts are called to some deed of heroism or self-sacrifice. Whatever pessimists may say, the heart of humanity to-day is no less generous, no less sympathetic than in any heroic past, legendary or real. The rescue of the Danmark's passengers, the news of which ended a long and harrassing suspense and brought solace to hundreds of anxious households, was made all the more welcome by the story of unostentatious and self-denying kindness and consideration that made it possible. As our readers are aware, the Danmark was about 800 miles from Newfoundland when the accident which disabled her and killed her engineer took place. She and her living freight were saved by Capt. Murrell, of the Missouri, a new steamship in the carrying trade between London and Philadelphia. All honour to Captain Murrell, his officers and men!

Dr. William Osler, formerly of the Medical Faculty of McGill College, now of the University of Pennsylvania, has written to the *Witness*, of this city, a thoughtful letter on the question of medical education for women in the Dominion. He is by no means opposed to the movement. On the contrary, he knows women who adorn the profession and sincerely wishes that there were more such. What he fears is for the future of the ladies who take medical degrees, after they had passed all their examinations and became full-fledged alumnae of McGill University. "Canada," writes Dr. Osler, "offers no field for them," and he says so "with a tolerably wide knowledge of the existing condition of the profession in the several provinces. From Victoria to Halifax there are certainly not twenty towns in which," continues Dr. Osler, "I should like to see a young female practitioner open an office. The larger cities can support two or perhaps three each; places of the size of Hamilton, London, Halifax and St. John, would, in time, support one each. But as for towns of the size of Guelph, Sher-

brooke, Galt and Peterborough, filled as they are with able, shrewd male practitioners, who enjoy the full confidence of the public, I do not hesitate to predict utter failure for any woman doctor who settles in such places." As to the need for them elsewhere—in India, for instance,—Dr. Osler thinks that such a plea would hardly justify the outlay of large sums in Montreal for their education. He suggests, however, that the University of Calcutta is open to women who would do medical missionary work on the basis of Lady Dufferin's scheme. On the question of co-education medical opinion is still divided.

With whomsoever the blame may lie, either in the first place or in the second place, the religious agitation which, beginning in Ontario, has now been introduced into this province, is sincerely to be deplored by all who have the interests of the Dominion at heart. Such agitation where (if such need ever arises) it is called for, is never delicate in its distribution of blame. The only principle of judgment that it obeys is "Ex uno disce omnes." To wage war against a community because it may harbour a few bigots—and there are bigots in all creeds—is unfair and unwise. In the present instance the real offenders—those who have through inadvertence or of malice prepense trodden upon the touchy toes of Protestantism—constitute a mere handful of the population. They could not claim the sympathy of all their fellow-religionists, but the latter, through conventional necessity, let their right of protest go by default. Protest here was, indeed, at an earlier stage, but political partisanship made it of no avail. Now the strange thing has happened that nearly a million of people find themselves made responsible for the proceedings of a mere maniple of politicians who, through lack of foresight or pride of power, committed a blunder. But one blunder is not mended by another. The agitation is to be regretted on many grounds.

The study of Canadian history has, for some years past, been pursued in nearly all our centres of culture with an ardour that is full of promise. The historical societies of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba have shown an earnestness and an activity which have been extremely fruitful in character and direction. The younger organizations have been especially praiseworthy in stimulating research in directions hitherto but slightly followed up. The Manitoba Literary and Scientific Society, under the zealous leadership of Professor Bryce, the historian, and others like-minded, has made the early exploration and later development of the Northwest and the empire of the Hudson's Bay Company its peculiar field, at the same time giving attention to aboriginal ethnology and languages. The Lundy's Lane Historical Society carries its flag in its name, and we have already had an earnest of the new light that it will shed on our military and Loyalist annals. The Society for Historical Studies of Montreal has, in the course of three or four years, succeeded in establishing a magazine, *Canadians*, which is now on a firm basis under the editorial care of Mr. W. J. White, the vice-president and chief founder of the Society. The Haliburton of Windsor, N.S., of which Prof. Roberts is president, is another valiant young society, of whose quality our readers have already had an example. And now we learn that an aim which all these societies, as well as their older sisters, have kept constantly in view, the recognition of Canadian history in