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### TO OUR QUEBEC SUBSCRIBERS.

Our agent, E. Légaré, Esq., having begun the collection of what is due in Quebec for subscriptions to both the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS and L'OPINION PUBLIQUE, we call upon our friends to hold themselves in readiness to settle with him at his first visit and facilitate by every means in their power the transaction of his business.

## CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS

Montreal, Saturday, Oct. 16th, 1875.

### THE HARVEST.

Amid the prevailing commercial and financial depression, it is a source of comfort, as well as of thanksgiving to Providence, that the harvest in the Dominion has been gathered in a satisfactory condition. We have the report of the authorities of the Grand Trunk Railway on the result of the crops in the different sections of the country through which the line passes, and from it we cull reliable data concerning the yield of the different cereals and roots. We have been at the pains of going carefully through this authoritative report, and the analysis of it which we subjoin will be useful for reference. It will likewise prove interesting as an emigration paper to which purpose we intend that it shall be destined.

The Buffalo and Goderich District of the Grand Trunk Line extends over the extreme parts of the Ontario peninsula. There we find that fall wheat will average 25 bushels to the acre; spring wheat 20 bushels; barley, 45 bushels; peas, 40 bushels; oats, 45 bushels; while hay is about half a crop, and potatoes, with other roots, have furnished a fair yield, spite of the appearance of the Colorado beetle. In this section, Paris and Brantford afford a curious contrast. In the former, fall wheat was badly winter-killed and will average only about 10 bushels per acre; spring wheat is a good crop and will average from 25 to 30 bushels. In the latter, fall wheat, light crop winter-killed, will average about 52 bushels per acre; spring wheat, light crop, sample good, will average about 15 bushels.

The Western District comprises some of the richest counties in Ontario, of which London may be regarded as the commercial centre. In that section the results are as follows: fall wheat, 25 bushels to the acre; spring wheat, 20 bushels; barley, 35 bushels; oats, 40 bushels; peas, 30 bushels; hay light; potatoes and roots a full crop, while we have no traces of the bug. From London, in particular, we read that for fifteen years past the general product from all cereals has not been exceeded, or of better quality, with the exception of barley, which is considerably stained. And in St. Mary's, the report affirms that the present year will long be known as having been one never equalled in the quality and quantity of the grain, flax, and root crops grown; every description of products is usually fine and has, so far as the harvest has progressed, been saved in good order; barley in some cases has been slightly discolored by rain; but very slightly.

The Central District includes such fertile centres as Hamilton, Toronto, Whitby, Co-

bourg, Belleville, Kingston, Ottawa and Prescott. Throughout this important section the averages are: fall wheat, 25 bushels to the acre; spring wheat, 25 bushels; barley, 45 bushels; oats, 40 bushels; peas, 35 bushels, with hay a light crop and abundant roots, notwithstanding the visitation of the potato beetle.

The Eastern District brings us to the Province of Quebec from St. Lambert to Island Poudre. Here the climate allows of little or no fall wheat, and spring wheat is sown only to the extent of home consumption. The section is in the main a grazing one, and, it is, therefore, a satisfaction to learn that hay has proved a good average crop. Oats average 30 bushels to the acre; barley, 30 bushels, and peas about 20 bushels. Potatoes and roots have yielded handsomely. The Colorado beetle did not reach the Province this year.

The Richmond and Rivière du Loup District takes us into a cold climate, yet the report from all the counties on the route is very encouraging. The grain crops are a good average, notwithstanding that the harvesting was much delayed by almost incessant rains. In the distant regions around Rivière du Loup and above the Madawaska Road as far as Little Falls, New Brunswick, the general report is that the crops this year are in advance of any previous year. Hay on wellcultivated farms is considerably above the average; spring wheat and rye are estimated at 20 bushels; peas, 25; barley, 50, and oats 60 bushels to the acre; buckwheat is a superior crop, and will yield from 150 to 200 bushels per acre; potatoes are in good condition and free from blight, and will average 125 bushels.

The Montreal and Champlain District is the Southern limit of this Province along the Grand Trunk Railway. Here the prevailing complaint is the potato-rot which has considerably diminished the yield. The other roots, however, havenot suffered to any extent. Peas are a full average crop, quality good; barley, over the average crop, about 30 bushels per acre; oats about 30 bushels; hay is over an average crop, about .90 per cent of which will be secured in good order, the balance being damaged by heavy rains.

### ICELANDIC COLONY.

There is now arriving in the Province of Manitoba an Icelandic Colony, numbering about 350 souls, under the charge of Mr. JOHN TAYLOR, who is acting as agent of the Government on their behalf. This pioneer colony is, we understand, assisted by the Government, very much in the same way as the Mennonite Colony which has proved successful. The Icelanders, we are informed, do not intend to settle in the Province of Manitoba, but in the North West Territory, on the west shore of Lake Winnipeg, immediately north of the frontier of that Province; and the site selected, we are further informed, stretches for 50 miles along the shore of the Lake. It was viewed by a deputation of Icelanders during the summer, accompanied by Mr. TAYLOR, who now acts as Government agent. The site was found to be in the highest degree suitable; the soil being good, timber in sufficient abundance, and the fisheries, for the working of which the Icelanders are specially adapted, very rich. In fact, such is the enthusiasm of the Icelanders over this site, that it has spread to a number of their brethren who are not very well satisfied with their location in the Western States; and it has been already by them christened "New Iceland." The name sounds rather cold, and is that far, we think, unfortunate; but with them it is associated with the poetry of

"The stirring memories of a thousand years."

The settlement of the Island of Iceland was, last year, exactly one thousand years old. The new colonists in our North West hope to make the settlement on the shore of Lake Winnipeg historic, and their belief is that, so soon as a knowledge of its resources and attractions for them gets to Iceland, the whole population of that Island will empty on our

shores. Nor is the hope altogether without foundation. It is now well known that the recent volcanic eruptions have rendered a large portion of the Island uninhabitable and an exodus of the whole population is not unlikely. The Canadian Government will favour this movement; and, in fact, we have already seen that they have sent an agent or agents to Iceland. We gather also that the Hudson's Bay Company so much favour the movement that they have signified their willingness to guarantee the repayment of any advances which the Government may make to promote the settlement, in the same way that the Mennonites of Ontario guaranteed the advances for their brethren from South Russia. The facts we have stated are certainly of much interest; and the public generally will not fail to watch the progress of the Icelandic settlement.

### THE TEACHERS CONVENTION.

The late meeting of the Provincial Association of Protestant Teachers, at Quebec, was, in reality, a far more important event than many would be at first disposed to imagine. Beginning with obscure gatherings of humble-minded men, this convention, under the determined devotion to the cause of education of the two foremost educators in our Montreal Normal School (Dr. and Mr. Frank Hicks), is now beginning to hold meetings of almost national importance. At first most of the leading Protestant educators in our midst, hearing, we presume, that other leading men were not likely to be there, were brightly conspicuous by deliberate absence. Last year, at the most successful meeting held in Granby, Judge DUNKIN, the Hon. GEORGE IRVINE and others of that stamp were present throughout. This year the meeting was favoured by the presence, not only of the indefatigable Secretary and his colleagues, as usual, but also with that of two of our cabinet ministers, of representatives from Bishop's College and the Montreal and Quebec High Schools, and of the Bishop of Quebec and some of the leading clergy of his and other denominations.

The next meeting to be held in Montreal will, we trust, be still more influentially attended, and we hope that the rich people of the Island City will emulate the hospitality of Quebec and Granby, and give the underpaid and overworked, but refined and cultured teachers, a warm welcome to their tables and their homes. Light was thrown on subjects of vast interest. A scheme for obviating the wide-spread crass ignorance of the importance of classics in education, by not beginning their study till a boy has a chance of mastering spelling, arithmetic and composition; the advantage of bringing down the daily working hours in our country schools to the maximum of five and a half; the paramount necessity of ventilation, were all enunciated. But much remains to be done to make the meetings worthy of the valuable time devoted to them, by men every day of whose lives is of educational value to the country. Fewer hours should be foisted in of exhibitional inquisitorious on shilling "Wheels of Time" or "Perpetual Almanacs," or on what a contemporary mis-spells "The Cenotaph," an elaborate means of teaching history without the aid of lectures or books, by a judicious combination of a draught board, and seemingly by a compositor's type case with 40,500 squares in it.

The example set last week by one of our most methodical and time-economising Bishops might be followed. A half hour at most should be allowed to each paper. Fifteen minutes each might be allowed to leading men previously solicited to be prepared to discuss it.

We will conclude with a word of sympathy for the innocent papers ignominiously slaughtered for lack of time, and hope that the manuscript will not be consigned still-born to the flames, but read before our editorial ears next year in Montreal.

### THE NEW POSTAL LAW.

As the new Postal Law, which came into force on the 1st of the present month contains several changes, likely to be overlooked or misunderstood, we think it proper to make a clear summary of its principal provisions. The rate of postage on a letter posted within the Dominion of Canada, for transmission by mail to any place in Canada, will continue to be 3 cents per half ounce weight; but the Statute provides that this rate must be prepaid by postage stamp at the time of posting the letter. Any such letter posted wholly unpaid cannot be forwarded to its destination, but is to be sent to the Dead Letter Office. Letters, when weighing more than half an ounce, and liable therefore to two or more rates of postage, may be transmitted by mail to destination, though not fully prepaid, if as much as one full rate of three cents has been prepaid thereon by postage stamp; and are in such cases to be forwarded charged with double the amount of deficient postage not prepaid. On letters posted at an office to be delivered from it, commonly known as *drop letters*, the rate will be one cent per half ounce; to be in all cases prepaid by postage stamp affixed to such letters when posted.

Newspapers and periodicals issued not less frequently than once a month, and addressed and posted by and from the same for transmission by mail to regular subscribers or news agents in Canada, may be posted by the same on the prepayment of a rate of one cent for each pound weight in bulk, or fraction of a pound; and such newspapers and periodicals are to be put up into packages and delivered in the post offices, and the postage thereon prepaid by the publisher or news agent.

Most of the publishers of newspapers and periodicals in Canada have already taken advantage of the permission to post their publications prepaid under the provisions of the Statute; and it will be obligatory on all to do so from the 1st of October, as their publication cannot legally be forwarded to subscribers or others by mail after that date, unless posted prepaid.

On all newspapers and periodicals posted in Canada, other than those addressed to regular subscribers or news agents, from office of publication or news agency, under the foregoing sections, and including all newspapers and periodicals published less frequently than once a month, the rate will be *one cent for four ounces*; to be invariably prepaid by postage stamp. Nevertheless newspapers and periodicals weighing less than one ounce each may be posted singly, if prepaid by postage stamp one-half cent each.

Newspapers or periodicals passing by mail between Canada and the United Kingdom, the United States, Newfoundland and places beyond sea, will continue to be subject to the special regulations in respect to postage charges now, or from time to time hereafter in force, with regard to such transmissions. Such as may be posted in Canada for the United States or Newfoundland, are to be prepaid the same rates as if addressed to places within the Dominion.

On miscellaneous matter the rate of postage is one cent per four ounces in weight to be prepaid by postage stamp, or by the use of stamped post bands when suitable for the purpose. No letter or other communication intended to serve the purpose of a letter must be sent or enclosed in any article of miscellaneous mail matter; and all transmissions authorised by this regulation must be put up in covers open at the ends or sides, or in such a manner as to admit of inspection to ensure compliance with this condition.

Miscellaneous mail matter as above specified, when addressed to the United States or to Newfoundland, may be forwarded, when prepaid the one cent per 4 oz. rate, as if addressed to a place in Canada, with the exception of packets of samples and patterns of merchandise addressed to the United States, on which the special rate of ten cents must continue