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GEORGE E. DESBARATS, MANAGING-DIRECTOR,
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GEORGE E. MACRAE, WESTERN AGENT,
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J. H. BROWNLEE, BRANDON,
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While pointing out that there has been a gratifying increase in the importation of horned cattle from England, the High Commissioner in his report warns the Canadian authorities of the necessity for extreme caution in view of the panic that reigns in the United Kingdom with regard to pleuropneumonia. The arrival of a single infected cargo from the Dominion would be disastrous to the trade. Not long since an order was issued permitting the importation of cattle and sheep from Holland, that country being then free from disease of any kind. But, notwithstanding its known immunity, such an outcry was raised among the farmers, owing to its contiguity to Germany, that the order had to be rescinded. In fact, if many of the British farmers had their way, no importation would be permitted at all. It is in consequence of this widespread suspicion of everything that crosses the sea, and not because he is unaware of the conscientious care exercised in the inspection of all animals allowed to leave the Dominion, that Sir Charles Tupper thinks it well to put the Minister of Agriculture, and the officers of his department on their guard.

An experiment of which the result will be awaited with considerable interest has been made in the planting of trees in the plain country of the North-West. The opportunity for it was afforded by a project of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, which has been in operation for some years—that of marking off ground for gardens at the more important railway stations of the sparsely settled western country, in which various grains, vegetables and flowers are cultivated. These gardens, which had an experimental character, occurred mainly in a virtually treeless tract, and it was thought well to try whether some of the hardier, deciduous and evergreen trees grown at the Central Farm, Ottawa, might not thrive if transplanted to the West. So twenty-five bundles, each containing 175 selected trees and plants of some three dozen varieties were put up and forwarded to twenty-five of these station gardens at points between Moose Jaw and Calgary. The bundles contained several varieties of maple (Manitoba, Norway, sugar, red and soft), of ash (white, green, mountain—American and European), of birch (yellow and canoe), of walnut, butternut, elm, sycamore, black cherry, honey locust, alder, mulberry, catalpa, horse chestnut, willow, cranberry, barberry and ailanthus, of deciduous, and of white, Scotch and Austrian pine, Norway and white spruce and arbor vitæ, of evergreen trees. All the packages reached their destinations in good order, and in many instances the

young trees are doing well. Those sent to Medicine Hat are in charge of Mr. J. Niblock, an enthusiastic arboriculturist, who, it is gratifying to learn, has met with encouraging success in his labour of love. It is to be hoped that some of the other tests will attract like interest in the localities where they are conducted.

Vancouver, B.C., continues to be a source of wonder and admiration to English visitors. A recent tourist, who has been contributing a series of interesting letters to the *Colonies and India*, expresses his delight with this young Pacific city. What in his opinion, as in that of all who have trodden its broad streets, makes it exceptionally remarkable is that it has already, short though its career has been, passed through the terrible ordeal of a sweepingly destructive fire. When it was founded in 1866, the country around its site was virgin forest, many of the trees being from six to twelve feet in diameter. Its rapid growth was only retarded momentarily by the sudden desolation that overtook it. No one would fancy to-day that the handsome and thriving city of 15,000 people, with its wharves and warehouses, churches, hotels and fine private residences, was the youngest of American settlements. What seems strangest of all to the correspondent is that there has been no boom, nothing artificial or forced in its creation. There has been no speculating on margins, but a steady growth in the value of property; all the land bought has been paid for, half cash down, the remainder in from three to six months, and railway land is sold only on building conditions. There are not twenty persons, according to the land commissioner, behind in their payments. Everything shows healthy progress, stability and enterprise, and gives assurance of a grand future.

We are glad to learn that the Rev. F. E. Wilson, of Sault Ste. Marie, has concluded arrangements for the issue of a monthly periodical, to be devoted to the Indians. It will be the organ of "The Indian Research and Aid Society," the inaugural meeting of which took place at Ottawa on the 18th ult. under the presidency of Sir James Grant, M.D., F.G.S. His Excellency the Governor-General has consented to be patron of the Society, which has also obtained the sanction of the Minister of the Interior. Sir Wm. Dawson was elected president, the Hon. G. W. Allan, the Rev. Dr. Bryce, Dr. Lewis (Bishop of Ontario), and Sir James Grant, were chosen vice-presidents; the Rev. F. E. Wilson will be secretary, and Mr. W. L. Marler, treasurer. The council comprises Mr. J. M. LeMoine, Dr. G. M. Dawson, Dr. Thorburn, the Rev. Principal Grant, Dr. Sullivan (Bishop of Algoma) and other prominent workers in the fields of missions or research. The Rev. F. E. Wilson and Mr. H. B. Small will edit the Society's magazine, which is called *The Canadian Indian*. The price of subscription (which includes membership in the Society) is \$2. We consider the formation of such a society a movement in the right direction, and we hope that *The Canadian Indian* will have a success corresponding with the importance of the subjects with which it is to deal.

By the death of Mr. E. Lareau, M.P.P., this province has lost a patriotic and earnest public man, the legal profession a learned member and a diligent student, and Canadian literature one of its most enthusiastic and productive writers. Mr. Lareau's mind was always active and his pen was rarely idle. Though still comparatively young, he

had found time to complete a number of important works, some of them authorities on the topics upon which they deal, while attending his professional, professorial and parliamentary duties. He wrote the only comprehensive history of Canadian literature that we possess; compiled a bulky survey of general literature; wrote, in conjunction with the late Mr. G. Doutre, "Le Droit Civil Canadien," and alone "L'Histoire du Droit Canadien," a volume of essays on feudal tenure, the Canadian press, etc., besides occasional contributions to various journals. Some of these works—those on legal and constitutional history especially—are of recognized value, and are marked by conscientious research, characteristic clearness and impartiality.

The engineers of the United States do not seem to deal successfully with the Mississippi floods, which at stated periods cause such devastation along the banks of that great river and its tributaries. Just at present large districts in Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas are in a state of destitution, and have appealed for assistance. General A. W. Greely, whose visit to Montreal some of our readers doubtless remember, has contributed a timely article on the subject to the *North American Review*. In substance, he says that the freshets of the main river and its tributaries are not due, as many have held, to the melting of winter snows. The freshets in the Upper Mississippi occurring as late as April, and those of the Missouri in June and July—both rivers, moreover, being at a low stage in February and March—they cannot contribute to the March and April floods of the Lower Mississippi. In fact, he thinks that if all the waters of the upper river were dammed up so as to leave St. Louis high and dry, the lower reaches of the river would none the less be surcharged and the lands along its banks inundated. As for the central portion of the river, between Cairo and Red River Landing, no matter what outlets were opened into the gulf below the latter point, it would still be subjected to disastrous overflows, as at present. The floods in the Mississippi Valley below the mouth of the Red River are distinctive floods, and their treatment must, therefore, be individual. They are, in a measure, independent of the central valley where the flood periods are prolonged considerably beyond the duration of the freshets in the Delta region. It will thus be seen that it is not a single problem, but a number of separate local problems that the science of engineering is called upon to solve.

In these utilitarian days it is not often that a teacher boldly undertakes to defend the study of Greek simply on its own merits. The Rev. Prof. McNaughton, of Queen's University, has, however, not shrunk from the task. In his inaugural lecture he has courageously stood up for it against all opponents. After paying a deserved compliment to his own distinguished teacher, Prof. Geddes, now at the head of Aberdeen University, and expressing his assurance of constant sympathy and encouragement from the Principal of Queen's, Prof. McNaughton weighed the arguments generally used in the denunciation of Greek as one of the branches of liberal study, and found them wanting. As for the contemptuous question sometimes heard by its antagonists, "What does one gain by it?" he appealed to experience. "Ask any man who has acquired some familiarity with this language whether he regrets the time spent on it. I do not think that one man out of a hundred would say he did. For the most part, you will find that the most ener-