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A FEW POINTERS

On arrival at Winnipeg the wisest policy for any new settler to adopt is to remain in Winnipeg for a few days and learn for himself all about the lands offered for sale and to homestead. There are districts that have been settled for many years in which land can be purchased. Some of this may be unbroken prairie which still possesses all the richness and productive powers of our virgin prairies. Other lands, cultivated and having comfortable farm buildings, are ready for immediate possession. There are Provincial Government lands, Dominion Government homesteads, and railway lands to be secured. The price of land varies from \$3 to \$40 per acre. Location with respect to railways, towns, timber and water determines the price of land. For information regarding homesteads apply at the Dominion Land Office. For purchase of Provincial lands apply at the Provincial Land Office in the Parliament Buildings. For C. P. R. or C. N. R. lands apply at the land offices of said railway companies. For lands owned by private individuals apply to the various real estate agents in the city. For situations as farm laborers apply to: **J. J. GOLDEN** PROVINCIAL INFORMATION BUREAU, 617 MAIN ST., WINNIPEG

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ALLEGED CONGO ATROCITIES

(The Casket)

Dr. John Todd, a McGill graduate, has arrived at his home in Victoria, B.C. after spending some time as a Royal Commissioner appointed by King Leopold to study the mysterious sleeping sickness in the Congo. He told the Montreal "Star" that after seeing the country as few white men have an opportunity to see it, he does not believe the charges of atrocities made by the English and continental press against the officials of the Free State. "It is a wonderful organization they have in the Congo," he remarked, "with a discipline so strict that any disobedience or failure to obey orders to the letter is dealt with severely. But conditions there make that necessary; and as for brutalities and atrocities, no! The Congo syndicate has only one parallel in history as regards organization and efficiency,—the Hudson's Bay Company in its best days."

JOTTINGS

Conspicuous among the adornments of the bridal feast in Brittany is an artistic and elaborate butter structure, as fanciful and elegant as the most beautiful bridal cake, and into this structure the guests stick split sticks bearing coins of gold and silver.

The earliest wooden bridges were built by expert carpenters. The work was done by contract, very much the same as building work is done at the present day, except that the builder was also the designer. The builder would buy suitable timber or have it sawed to order at conveniently located saw-mills, and any iron-work needed in the construction of the bridge, such as rods, bolts, or bars, he would obtain at a local blacksmith shop, and frame and erect the bridge in place, ready for traffic. The same methods were also used in building the early iron highway bridges. Each of these builders had his own type of bridge, and his own special details. At that time there was generally but little competition, as very few had any knowledge of bridge building, and each one controlled a certain territory.

The greatest problems of Canadian agriculture are not the narrow, technical ones, but the relations of the industry to economic and social life in general. Agriculture has not as yet been able to call to its aid in any marked degree those forces and tendencies which have culminated and been of such economic value in the general business world, in the great productive and distributive aggregations. The complete solution of the economic ills of Canadian agriculture may not be in co-operation, and yet in both the productive and distributive phases this is, perhaps, the most apparent remedy. Co-operation in distribution has made a beginning, but co-operation in production is still almost unknown.

Superheating is being forced to 554 deg. F. on the Prussian State railroads. When steam is superheated to 500 deg. F. a saving of 16 per cent. in steam and 12 per cent. in fuel can be obtained, as compared with similar locomotives using saturated steam, the greater saving in water than in fuel being due mostly to the prevention of losses caused by condensation.

The comparatively recent advent of hollow concrete blocks into building construction is probably one of the most important innovations in the building industry, and one that is yet in its infancy. The use of concrete as building material is not recent, however, as there are still in existence dikes, dams, roadways, etc., built by the Romans of material corresponding almost exactly with our present day concrete; it is the introduction of the hollow concrete building block machine that has made possible the gigantic strides taken by this new industry. Experiments along this line have been in progress for many years, but it is only in the past few years that the results have been tangible.

New Year's in France is a greater day for exchanging gifts than Christmas. The custom of New Year's calls, once so popular in this country but now fallen almost into disuse is still supreme in Paris. Great family dinners, in which the orange figures most prominently add to the gaiety of the day. So crowded are the pavements on the boulevards that pedestrians sometimes have to take the middle of the street.

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