

Literary Review.

"History of the North-West." by Alexander Begg.—The first volume of this work has been issued from the press of Hunter, Rose & Co., Toronto. It is the first attempt to give an extended and complete history of Western Canada, and coming from such a well known author as Mr. Begg, the volumes will be accepted as an important, and indeed a very necessary addition to the list of histories of Canada. It is proposed to publish the work in three volumes. The present volume begins with the earliest discoveries in America and ends with the concluding days of the provincial government of Assiniboia, better known as the first Riel Rebellion. Mr. Begg does not devote much time to literary embellishment, but evidently seeks to give a clear and concise history of the country, confining himself as closely as possible to the actual narrative of events. His introductory chapters relating to early discoveries in America may perhaps seem somewhat tedious to some, but once he gets regularly into his subject, the work becomes more interesting. He treats of Champlain's discoveries in Canada and overland explorations in the North-West; the early missionaries; explorations in the Hudson Bay and conflicts between the English and French; the fur traders; the Hudson's Bay Company; the Pacific coast fur trade; a full history of the Selkirk settlement; the contest between the rival fur companies and their subsequent coalition; the forts; the Indians; exploratory work; the Church in the Northwest; the voyageurs, freighters and hunters; decline of Hudson's Bay Company's authority; Canadian claims to the territory and negotiations to transfer the country to Canada, with a full history of the troubles that followed the transfer, dealing with the closing days of Hudson's Bay company's rule and the Riel rebellion, etc. An interesting appendix is added, giving the royal charter of the Hudson's Bay Company, granted in 1670, and subsequent grants to the company; the famous proclamations issued by Hon. Wm. McLougall; the laws of the provisional government of Assiniboia; the Manitoba Act, etc. Mr. Begg's account of the so called Red river rebellion will perhaps prove the most interesting part of this volume to many, and his narration is quite out of line with the popular idea of the events of that troublesome period. Indeed, there is a great deal of ignorance among Canadians at the present day as to the real nature of the "rebellion." The newspaper accounts at the time were altogether misleading and distorted, and these fragmentary accounts form the basis of the present popular idea of the troubles attending the transfer of the Great West from the Hudson's Bay company to Canada. If Mr. Begg succeeds only in correcting these erroneous impressions even at this late date, he will have performed a good work. As for his history of the North-West we bespeak for it a very favorable reception. Canadians will take pride in informing themselves about the history of the Great West, now that a work has been published which will enable them to do so.

The Independent Farmer.

[From the Wall Street Daily News]

A good deal of sympathy is being wasted over the farmer by people who do not know what they are taking about. The low price of wheat and the decline in value of live stock are pointed out as reasons why the farmer is crying himself to sleep every night. As a matter of fact the farmer who has his farm paid for is the most independent man on earth— independent of panics, of financial stringencies and political experiments. He may not have a great deal of ready money, but he is as sure of a comfortable living as any man

can be in this uncertain world. There may, it is true, be a failure of some crops, but all the crops won't fail. His hogs may be decimated by cholera, but his sheep and cattle are left. Times may be dull, but if the worst comes to the worst he can live, and live fairly well on the produce of his own farm. Clothes he must have, but fashions don't change rapidly in the country and a few bushels of potatoes or a few hogs will produce the money needed for absolutely essential clothing. The farmer is all right. He is not at the mercy of labor unions or capitalists. All the mills in the country may shut down and he is still certain of three meals a day and a bed at night. As he is the mainspring and foundation of all material prosperity, so he is independent of all the minor disturbances that trouble the people who are, after all, dependent on him for subsistence.

The Salt Fish Trade.

Sufficient discrimination is not exercised by purchasers in regard to the quality of herring, as there are some ragged outside lots fictitiously branded Labradorers that are offering at low prices. Genuine Labrador herring just received direct from the Labrador coast are steady at \$5.00 per bbl., and at \$1.00 to \$1.50 per bbl. is the range for other kinds. A cargo of very fine herring has just arrived from the Labrador coast comprising about 1,000 bbls.. Prime fat Nova Scotia herring are quoted at \$4.50 and \$4.75 July catch, and some September caught fish, not so fat and less desirable, are quoted at \$4.25 to \$4.30. Sales of dry cod have transpired at \$1.50 per quintal, but the demand is slow. In green cod, supplies are increasing, and sales have been made at \$4.25 to 4.50 as to size of lot. Labrador salmon are slow sale at \$10.00 to \$11.00 for No 1 small, and at \$14.00 for large. Latest advices state the catch of Labrador herring is very small, some designating it as a complete failure. It was hoped a short time ago that a much larger catch would be secured this year; but it seems that such prospects have not been realized up to the present.—Montreal Trade Bulletin.

United States Crop Report.

The October returns of the Washington Department of Agriculture makes the general condition of corn as not materially different from that of last month, it being 64.2 against 63.4 in September, a gain of .80f one per cent. In most of the Southern States the condition of corn has fallen since the last report, but in some of the Western States there have been slight gains in condition. The averages of condition in the largest surplus corn growing states are as follows: Tennessee, 83, Kentucky, 77, Ohio 71, Michigan 56, Indiana 78, Illinois 78, Wisconsin 51, Minnesota 59, Iowa 47, Missouri 70, Kansas 49, Nebraska 14, South Dakota 44, North Dakota 80, California 94.

The returns of yield per acre of wheat indicate a production of about 19.1 bushels, being 1.8 bushels greater than last October preliminary estimate. The rate of yield by states is as follows: New York 14.8, Pennsylvania 15.3, Ohio 19.1, Michigan 15.8, Indiana 19.4, Illinois 18.3, Wisconsin 16.5, Minnesota 12.9, Iowa 14.8, Missouri 15.6, Kansas 10.4, Nebraska 6.5, South Dakota 9.4, North Dakota 11.2, Washington 10.6, Oregon 17.7 California 11.3.

The indicated quality of wheat for the country is 93.5. The quality in some of the principal wheat states is as follows: New York 93, Pennsylvania 95, Kentucky 95, Ohio 100, Michigan 92, Indiana 98, Illinois 97, Wisconsin 90, Minnesota 94, Iowa 96, Missouri 97, Kansas 83, Nebraska 78, South Dakota 83, North Dakota 93, Washington 99, Oregon 94, California 95.

The returns of yield of oats per acre indicate a yield of 24.5 bushels, being one bushel more than the estimate for last October.

The average yield of rye is 13.7 bushels, against 13.3 bushels in 1893, and 12.7 in 1892.

The general average yield of barley is 19.3 bushels, against 21.7 bushels in 1893 and 23.7 in 1892.

The condition of buckwheat as reported is 72, against 69.2 last month and 73.5 on October 1, 1893.

The condition of potatoes is 64.9, against 62.4 last month and 71.2 at same time last year.

The condition of tobacco is 81.5, against 71.5 last month and 74.1 on October 1, 1893.

Good Credit Customers.

Writing of China, it is said that there is no place where debts are so punctually paid and where credit is so easily gotten by all classes of people. Honesty and integrity are above par in China, and foreigners tell me they would rather deal with a Chinese merchant than with any other business man in the world. He never goes back on his spoken or written word, and Mr. Ewon Cameron, one of the leading directors of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, an establishment which does the biggest banking business on the Western Pacific and whose capital amounts to millions, on leaving China not long ago said that in the dealings of the bank with Chinese merchants for a period of more than 20 years and in sums aggregating hundreds of millions of dollars he never met with a defaulting Chinaman.

American Chamber of Commerce in Paris.

An English newspaper says. There is no doubt that Chambers of Commerce do more to establish international friendship than any other organizations which have had their origin in late years. The Americans engaged in business in Paris have initiated a movement to found a Chamber of Commerce in Paris "to protect the mercantile interest subsisting between the two countries," and several excellent speeches were made by those who attended the inaugural meeting. From the Chamber of Boulogne, admirable suggestions are continually emanating to promote intercourse between France and England, and more substantial results may be anticipated from the more powerful organization just established by the Americans in Paris.

The Fight over Bar Iron.

The cutting in price of bar iron is being waged with fierce intensity, and we would not be surprised to see it down to \$1.50. The regular rate for Montreal bar iron was \$1.75; but it has been cut 5c at a time, until we are assured that five ton lots can be bought at \$1.60. With only four manufacturing firms in the city, it was thought strange that some arrangements could not be arrived at whereby the present unprofitable business could be stopped. "But it does not rest with our Montreal manufacturers," said a dealer yesterday, "or the trouble would soon be settled. The sole cause of the disturbance is the Hamilton concern, which has repeatedly cut 5c, compelling the makers here to follow in order to retain their business." This was a statement of a party who said the trade here would prefer to buy from our local mills if the Hamilton mill prices were the same. We are told, however, that the fight has progressed so far that it is simply a question as to whether or not the Montreal mills are to be closed by the Hamilton concern and their trade wrested from.—Montreal Trade Bulletin.