

land, is that our climate is abnormally changeable and extreme. Meteorological data supply a most emphatic contradiction to this popular opinion. China and the whole of Asia and much of eastern Europe in corresponding latitudes show a greater range between the mean temperature of January and July. Peking, as far south as Philadelphia, has a summer warmer than that city, and a winter quite as cold as Hamilton. The cold of the Western States has already been referred to; the excessive heat of the West requires no mention. In regard to daily extremes, the difference between Ontario and the West is equally marked. The late Prof. Loomis, discussing the reports of about a hundred American stations north of the 35th parallel and east of the Rockies, found that, in the two years covered by his examination, the only stations in which no range equal to 40° had occurred in a single day were in Ontario. Even Montreal, where the lake influence is felt only in slight measure, rivals the cities on the Atlantic seaboard in the smallness of its daily and monthly range, the average range for the whole month of July being from 86° to 52° or only 34°. In May there the mercury does not sink so low as in northern Illinois; June frosts are unknown, and only in two years out of six has the mercury fallen in September below 40°.

"MOSES OATES."

PROHIBITION IN THE NORTH-WEST.

Is the law preventing the free importation of intoxicating liquors into the North-West Territories a failure? This, if not the question of the hour in the territories is without doubt, a leading one; and I am strongly of the belief that it is *not* a failure. The local politicians, it is true, are making the question of the manufacture and sale of the lighter ales and beers a popular issue. Two opposing candidates for the North-West Council, Messrs. Geddes and Oswald, in an election for the newly created electoral division of Calgary, though differing on many other issues joined hands upon the matter of beverages in order to catch a certain vote. They contended that the permit system is abused to such an extent as to justify its repeal. They employed strong language, and asserted that it is humbug and it should be abolished; but I have very good reasons for knowing that much of their crusade against the permit system was the very essence itself of humbug, if there is any such theory as that. It is erroneous to suppose that permits are granted plentifully and promiscuously. My investigations lead me to the conclusion that it is easier to apply for a permit than to get one. Lieut.-Governor Deudney does not grant every application, as a good many residents of Calgary know of their own personal experience. Applications are frequently refused. Sometimes unjustly, perhaps, but not often.

It is to be expected that those who wish to engage in the traffic of strong waters will continue to denounce a law that is not only a check upon intemperance, but that is really a prohibition of the business. In order to make out a case, the permit system is attacked; but if the permit system is injurious let it be abolished and complete prohibition take its place. Will this suit the man who wishes to have whiskey as free as water? I do not hesitate to say it will not. Nothing short of the abolition of any restrictions will suit the considerable class who find in the traffic a congenial and profitable occupation. They are, therefore, incapable of giving an impartial opinion as to the working of the permit system.

If I am asked: Is the Prohibitory Act in the North-West Territories beneficial to the people of the territories? I must, without hesitation, say that it is. If the satisfactory operation of a law is to be judged by its effects, prohibition, even under the permit system, is most beneficial. There is a total absence of the eastern *scenes* and *squalor*.

Everyone knows that liquor is a contraband article, and although it is smuggled into the country in small quantities by Montana traders and others, those engaged in the traffic require to be extremely vigilant, and their camps are being continually broken up by the Mounted Police, their *cachés* discovered and the contents confiscated, so that the illicit dealing has to be carried on during a running fire, as it were, from the officers of the law.

The typical saloon of the Western States is to be found in the North-West, but there is an eloquent absence of tipsy men, and that which makes men tipsy. Temperance drinks, called beer and porter, the latter out of courtesy, and having the colour of the genuine article, are the prevailing beverages. Billiard tables occupy a considerable space, but no one is ever seen drunk in a saloon, and very rarely out of it. These are the effects of prohibition in this new country.

Some years ago in Portland, Maine, in one of the leading hotels one had to climb to the garret in order to interview the bar, and then it was the "family jug," kept for medicine purposes; but you may climb a hotel here to the garret, and descend even to the cellar, and find not even a

family jug consecrated to medicine purposes. In Maine the civil authorities carried out the law, or I should say *pretended* to do so. In the North-West Territories the Mounted Police are the agents of the law, and grim and inexorable they are, too, in its execution.

Near the 49th parallel, in the Red River Valley, it is not uncommon to meet dozens of intoxicated Chippewas, even women and boys. During a period of many weeks in this district I have not seen an intoxicated Indian or squaw, and there are hundreds of them camped in the vicinity of Calgary.

The visitor is frequently informed that he may obtain all the strong drink he wants at \$5 per bottle, but there is more boast than truth in this: the promoters of the falsehood are interested in belittling the agents of the law, and of underrating its enforcement.

It is the custom to abuse the Government for nearly everything good or bad in the North-West Territories; but if there is anything for which they are deserving of just credit, it is in the way the Public Works' Act has been enforced, and also the Supplementary Act. Many hundreds of miles of railway built, and not a man killed through intoxicating liquor! Compare this with construction on the Northern Pacific Railway to the South, where intoxicating liquor was more plentiful than necessary provisions.

I am in no way identified with any associations having Prohibition or Temperance as their motto; but if I may judge from the effects of prohibition here in these territories, I can surely say that it will be a dark hour when the liquor restrictions are swept away.

G. B. E.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A SUBSCRIBER.—We fear your letter would not be of interest to the general reader.

SARAH ANN CURZON.—We do not think the subject is of sufficient general importance to give space for replies to extracts from other journals upon the matter.

DOMINION QUARANTINE REGULATIONS.

To the Editor of The Week:

DEAR SIR,—*Vir sapit qui pauca loquitur*. Will you be good enough to grant me space to reply to "The Writer of the Article" on "Dominion Quarantine Regulations" in THE WEEK of July 31st? If, instead of concluding his letter in THE WEEK of last Thursday with the above maxim, he had made practical use of it as a text at the commencement of his previous effort, possibly he would now have less to answer for. "The Writer of the Article" in THE WEEK, states that the *Sanitary Journal* "speaks" of his article as "*very erroneous and misleading*." This is a little astray—overdrawn—as all his writings seem to be. The *Sanitary Journal* did not use italics. It is true, I have the habit of "attaching some value to the words I employ," but perhaps I ought to thank him for "assuming" so much. Further on, with your permission, I shall endeavour to "point out specifically" the "erroneous and misleading statements" in his sensational article. He begs me to be assured that his "article was not written to serve any political interests or party," and courtesy will not permit me to express doubt as to his statement. But, by the way, whom did he accuse? The quarantine system itself? Does he know who is at the head of the system, and responsible, were there any defects in it? Again, "the Minister of Agriculture—in whose favour" I am "so anxious to break a lance." When he writes this he should know that he not only goes "entirely outside" the question, but makes an unwarrantable assumption. The Minister does not require it at my hands, and there is nothing whatever in the item in the *Sanitary Journal* that indicates it, or fairly warrants any such insinuation on the part of "The Writer of the Article" in THE WEEK.

A very few words now in reference to the item in the *Sanitary Journal*. As editor of that public health journal my position had induced me to make enquiries in relation to our quarantine regulations. Having satisfied myself of their efficiency, I had already referred to the protection they afforded. The article in THE WEEK surprised me—surprised me because it displayed, if not disregard of truth, marked ignorance of facts, and was calculated to unnecessarily alarm the public—surprised me the more because it was in THE WEEK. There was but just time and space before sending the *Journal* to press to allude to the misleading article, regret its publication, and endeavour to calm the public mind by stating the simple fact that everything practical had been and was being done to prevent the infection reaching Canadian soil. And done by whom? by anybody or everybody? No! By the responsible head of the quarantine service, the Minister of Agriculture. Simply this, and nothing more.

"The Writer of the Article" in THE WEEK states that, "for all purpose of quarantine, Grosse Isle might as well be in the South Pacific," literally, that it is only "at present a quarantine station on paper"; that "the Dominion has no quarantine on our chief summer port from the Atlantic"; that at Quebec "things are, if possible, still worse," and that, when the steamer has moored, the "quarantine doctor" goes on board and the examination into the health of the passengers.

In the main consists of the interchange of civilities between the quarantine doctor and the ship's doctor. Esculapius of the sea assures Esculapius of the land that "everything is all right"; a hasty glance into the rigging, around the smoke-stack, and over the bulwarks, confirms the statement, and the medical examination is over.

Now, sir, I have no desire to be severe on the writer of these statements. Nor do I write in any other than a spirit of fair play, and, indeed, of friendship; but he must have been far from a careful and correct "observer," or he did not write correctly whereof he had observed. The description of the examination into the health of the passengers by the "quarantine doctor" reads as if it were purely imaginary. Any one knowing the Quarantine Medical Officer at Quebec would not, of course, believe it, but all do not know him. Let me ask "The Writer of the Article" himself if, after he has