

social contentments of the Puritan yeomanry. And, to that end, we ought to welcome and cheer the granges, "leagues" and other organizations of the New England farm, pardoning even certain of their civic heresies as being a better symptom than lethargy.

But that we shall ever again see the old equalized and localized social system of the Yankee farms, the

times with their rush to the cities, immigration, the growth of the factory and the swift transfer of wealth from mass to class, seem to forbid. If the shadows are deep, it is because they are thrown by concrete things which it is the part neither of wisdom, or of truth to disguise.

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TORONTO OBSERVATORY.

AT a time like the present, when the proposed removal of the meteorological offices to Ottawa is causing such widespread talk, a history of the inception and growth of the magnetic observatory at Toronto and the meteorological service of the Dominion will be read with interest. In 1834, through the influence of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, a magnetic survey of the British Islands was commenced by the British Government, which in two years, through the efforts of five of the members of the association, was completed. In 1838 the association, availing itself of the opportunity offered by the presentation of their report to the Government, which resulted in the Naval Expedition in the following year for a magnetic survey of the high latitudes of the southern hemisphere being undertaken, urged further the expediency of extending the researches, by fixed observatories, to certain stations of prominent magnetic interest in the British colonies, the stations named being Canada and Van Diemen Island. The Government having acceded to the request of the association, which was also backed by the Royal Society, and having agreed that the officers of the Royal Artillery were most competent to carry on the surveys, Lieut. Charles J. B. Riddell was selected for

Canada with instructions to work under the directions of the Master-General, or Major Edward Sabine, one of the leading spirits in magnetic research of the day, who had charge of the head office for the surveys at Woolwich, Eng. Leaving his detachment to embark with the instruments in a vessel bound direct to Quebec, Lieut. Riddell took passage by the more expeditious route of the United States. After waiting on the Governor-General at Montreal, he communicated to the Commanding Engineer in Canada his instructions and the fact that he had authority to build an observatory. He next proceeded to examine the various localities which were suggested as convenient sites. He finally gave preference to Toronto where a grant of two and one-half acres of land belonging to the University of King's College was offered by the Council of the University on the sole condition that the buildings should not be used for any purpose other than that of an observatory, and that when the observatory was discontinued the land should be reconveyed to the university. In January, 1840, the Governor sanctioned this arrangement and the necessary buildings were proceeded with early in the spring. Lieut. Riddell, while the buildings were in progress, obtained permission to make use of a small unoccupied