

THE RECENT EXPLORATIONS IN THE LAKE SUPERIOR COUNTRY.

It will be remembered that early in the summer, the Ontario Government sent out two parties for the purpose of exploring a large district of country on the north shore of Lake Superior, respecting which little or nothing was known. The parties were respectively by Mr. John A. Fleming and Mr. Beatty. Mr. Fleming and his companions started from Michipicoten; while Mr. Beatty started from Lake Nipigon. They moved towards each other; and after traversing a large district, crossing numerous lakes and rivers, they met at Pic River; and having thus completed their work, they returned home arriving in this city a few days ago.

The people of Ontario will be glad to hear that, in many respects, the exploration was of a highly satisfactory character, and establishes the fact that the Lake Superior country is anything but the barren and inhospitable region which it has hitherto been generally supposed to be. Of course it would be unreasonable to hope for such land and such a climate in that far-off district of our Province as we have here on the shores of Lake Ontario. Yet it is cheering to know that it is not only good for something, but that it is capable of supporting a very large number of people, so soon as better connections than we now have are established between it and this portion of Canada.

Mr. Beatty, as we have said, started from Lake Nipigon. For a few miles back from the lake he found excellent farming lands, well wooded, and in every way suitable for agricultural purposes. Along the remainder of his route, however, he only met with good land in patches here and there, along the banks of the rivers and shores of lakes. The country is very uneven, except at the top of the water shed between Lake Superior and the country beyond the dividing line which nature has there fixed. On that height the land is said to be level, well wooded, and in most places fit for farming.

From Mr. Fleming we have a much more favorable report. His explorations, we should say, as well as those of Mr. Beatty, were carried on along a line paralleled with the shore of Lake Superior, but about fifty or sixty miles inland. Mr. Fleming started from Michipicoten, and continued his survey over the country from that to the point on Pic river at which he joined the other party. He reports that in that region there are lakes, some of considerable extent, and a number of rivers, most of them large enough to be navigable by steamers. He found, away in the interior large tracts of most excellent land, and well wooded with spruce, tamarac, poplar, and cedar. The valleys of the rivers are also fit for cultivation. Mr. Fleming says that in many places the land may not only be called good but exceedingly rich, and of unusual depth. On the top of the water-shed—which is about forty-five miles back from Lake Superior—there are the rich, alluvial deposits of centuries, to all appearances capable of producing such crops as are grown in the best portions of Ontario. He believes that away beyond that point the soil is equally good. Once the water-shed is reached, an immense plain stretches out on all sides, and on this plain are the rich lands of which Mr. Fleming speaks. Another good feature of the country is this—there are no swamps of any extent. The whole territory has a natural and most excellent drainage in the numerous streams, both large and small, which

runs through it in all directions. The timber, though not heavy, is abundant, and quite good enough for fencing purposes and for fuel. The lakes and rivers abound with fish.

Mr. Fleming reports that a railway could be made through the country without much difficulty. It is an infinitely better region in every respect than that through which the Intercolonial is now being made. Along the top of the water shed—where the country is a vast plain—a road could be made as easily as through any portion of Ontario; while the land is of such excellent quality that it would sustain a very large population and thus give a railway a good local traffic. According to all accounts, this is the route for the Dominion Pacific Railway. The fact that many of the streams are navigable, is another great point. Mr. Fleming believes that, with a comparatively small outlay, unbroken water communication can be made between Lake Superior and James Bay from thence into Hudson Bay.

As to the climate of this recently explored region, according to the experience of the explorers, it is most salubrious and pleasant. Records of the temperature were kept from July 4th down to the middle of October, and the average was 63. The lowest was 55 and the highest 71 deg. Nine days out of every ten the thermometer stood some place in sixties. A more pleasant temperature, and a more invigorating climate, the explorers say could not well be imagined. Of course the winters are severe, but they cannot be unendurable as the Indians live in their birch bark all the year round. Messrs. Fleming and Beatty have prepared a most excellent map of the country, in which are shown the lakes, rivers, creeks, &c. They are now engaged in writing up their reports, which will be printed and laid before parliament at the earliest possible moment. Altogether the results of the exploration are of a highly satisfactory character. We know now that we have a country beyond Lake Superior which is good for something, which contains thousands of acres of rich agricultural lands a country which may be, in the not distant future, opened up for settlement; a country which is capable of sustaining a large population; and a country through which a railway to the far west can be made. In giving us all this information about that hitherto unknown land, the Government have done the people a genuine service—a service upon which the greatest reliance can be placed.

TWENTY THOUSAND PRUSSIANS CRUSHED TO DEATH.

Regarding the disastrous affair at the stone quarries at Jeanmont, and of which we have received scarcely any particulars, the following have been published in some German papers as authentic:—The affair at Jeanmont will form in history one of the most terrible episodes of warfare. Indeed picture it as you like, it is impossible to reach the point of horror which it produced on those who witnessed it, hundreds of after the affair stood dum and paralysed by terror, and many shed tears on perceiving that frightful mountain of corpses. The first cause of this unheard of drama were four French farmers, who thought themselves ruined by the Prussians. To take revenge they offered themselves as guides, and conducted them to a position which the Prussians considered as impregnable, and without the slightest presentiment of the fearful ambushade into which they were drawn. The stone quarries at Jeanmont form an immense deep excavation, whose

walls rise up perpendicular to the height of seven or eight stories on several points, on which the Prussians took their position, in expectation of having their rear clear and no fear of attack from that quarter. Out of the four farmers who conducted the Prussians in this position, one decamped to give notice of the means by which the whole of them might be destroyed. These means were infallible. These quarries are mainly worked out towards one side by long underground courses, and especially in several one over another mines lay heaped supported by huge pillars.

To this pillar supported *terrain* the farmers conducted the Prussians in the middle of the night. Informed of all this Bazaine at the break of day attacked the Prussians in front. The Prussians fought well and with that confidence that they had no fear of an attack on the rear. In the midst, however, Canrobert arrived, who had gone round the quarries and posted his guns opposite the precipice. His shots were solely directed against those pillars on which so to say, the Prussian columns rested. One short hour later and with a terrible crash the Prussians were precipitated into the abyss. "If I were to live 100 years," the writer says, "never should I lose out of my ears that terrible and awful scream as they felt the ground give way under their feet. Picture to yourself 20,000 voices, who yielded up one and all, one and the same awful scream as they perceived the fearful fate before them. It was like one human voice—the last, dismal, melancholy call for help—a fearful farewell which lasted only a few minutes, as in one moment, men, horses and cannon were hurled like a mixture into the abyss, and at the same time were crushed to death by the gigantic weight upon them. Bazaine at that moment rushed with such a fury on the Prussian corps before him that even half a regiment of French who could not master its assault were precipitated in the abyss. On beholding this fearful spectacle the French soldiers stood dumb and horror struck and a great many could not help shedding tears. This accumulation of bodies, from which human heads and arms, legs of horses, cannon and broken powder waggons jutted out, presented a living mountain, whose height slowly sinking at last filled two-thirds of the abyss. It was quite out of the question to bury the human corpses, as it was impossible or too difficult to get near them or to extract them from the abyss. A quantity of petroleum was thrown over the whole lot, with the intention of setting fire to it, but this notion was afterwards abandoned. The Prussians afterwards hired some Belgian workmen, at ten francs per day, to throw sand over this huge human mountain, from which, for the fact, four days after the occurrence, lamentation, groanings and whimperings were audible.

THE HURRICANE IN THE WEST INDIES.

THE CITY OF MATANZAS NEARLY SUBMERGED—TWO THOUSAND LIVES LOST

On the 6th ult. the barometer fell rapidly at the same time the wind commenced to blow, increasing in violence until evening, when the storm increased. It continued to blow heavily all night. In the morning it lulled a little, but in the afternoon it broke forth again with redoubled violence.

On the night of the 7th it blew a perfect hurricane, thought did not equal the storm which blew over the island in 1865. The greatest consternation prevailed among the