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Progressive Dawson. A letter recently published by the Toronto Globe from its correspondent at Dawson City gives an interesting account of the progress which that far-famed mining town is making in adopting the more advanced methods of civilized life. The changes which have taken place during the summer are remarkable. The waterfront has been cleared of its "shacks," and big docks, wharves and zinc-covered warehouses have taken their places. Building activity is continuous, and several saw mills have been running day and night to meet the demand for lumber. Big stores with plate glass windows and metropolitan airs, two-storey office buildings, cottages in lieu of cabins, sidewalks, bridges, levelled roadways, brick chimneys, mortar in place of moss, coal stoves, and most recently street names and numbering—all these have come, and are pushing the old conditions of 1898 very far back. The first brick building, a warehouse, is in course of erection. The bricks are of native manufacture and cost \$100 per thousand. There are coal lands in the vicinity of Dawson, and coal at \$30 per ton will to some extent be used as fuel instead of wood at \$18 per cord. The style of residence is changing too. The frame cottage is to some extent taking the place of the log cabin. But the Globe writer thinks the log cabin more picturesque as well as more comfortable. Changes are seen within doors as well as without. Cabin decorations are becoming a fine art in Dawson since so many wives and children have arrived. The reign of homes is fairly inaugurated, for two or three hundred wives have come in during the summer months. Healthy children are seen playing in the streets, and the first school in the Yukon will shortly be established at Dawson. With the exception of some cases of typhoid fever, which, however, are less numerous and less severe than last year, the health of the community is good. By the construction of roads the facilities of communication between Dawson and other points has been materially improved.

Agriculture in the Klondike. The conception of the Klondike country as a region of almost perpetual frost, situated altogether outside the agricultural zone, will need to be revised if we are to take at their face value the accounts given by the correspondent quoted in the preceding paragraph of experiments made during the past summer with a view to testing the capabilities of the soil and climate of the country. The experimenter, Mr. Acklin, selected a hillside about three miles up the Klondike for his experiment; he cleared the ground, built the most artistic cabin in the Klondike, planted grain, vegetables and flowers, and has established an altogether delightful place—a real homestead in the Yukon. It was a revelation even to those who know and laud the country and climate to see what possibilities of cultivation lie in the warm surface ground of this frozen north. Mr. Acklin reports very gratifying success in his attempt to grow the vegetables and flowering annuals usually grown in the gardens of the Maritime Provinces. His experiment included radishes, lettuce, spinach, mustard, carrots, turnips, peas, beans, onions, beets, rhubarb, etc., all of which, it is stated, have done well. Experiments were made also with the growing of oats, barley and wheat. Mr. Acklin reports that the result of these experiments was very favorable and is quoted as saying: "I see no reason why grain, including winter wheat, should not be extensively and successfully grown here, as from my observations the climate is as suitable here as at any place in the

northwest or the northern States of the United States. From my experience of the last two years I see no reason why this country should not be able to produce its own vegetables. As for flowers, the success I have had proves that all hardy annuals will do well, and the coming year I intend planting several hundred hybrid roses, and also summer flowering bulbs, and a much larger variety of other hardy and half-hardy annuals, and also some of the hardy perennial varieties."

Li Hung Chang The Peking correspondent of the New York Tribune sends that on the journal a report of a conversation which occurred between Li Hung Chang and an American citizen, Dr. L. L. Seaman, of New York City. It appears that Dr. Seaman had met the famous Chinaman during the latter's western tour, and being lately in Peking had received from the great man an invitation to call upon him. Very naturally the conversation gravitated to the Philippine question, and being asked by Dr. Seaman what he thought of the American occupation of Manila, Li Hung Chang showed no reluctance to express an opinion. "It is a big mistake," he said, and intimated that the counsels by which the foreign relations of the American Republic were determined in the days of President Grant were far wiser and safer than those of the present day. He considered that the purchase of the Philippines for \$20,000,000 was a foolish bargain, and asked—Why did not the Americans abandon them at once? "And leave them to be the prey of Germany or Japan or some other nation?" asked Dr. Seaman. "Certainly," replied Li, "what happens to them is no concern of yours, if, as you say, you are not bent on deriving pecuniary advantage from their possession." But, if the American people were not prepared for that nor yet for buying off Aguinaldo, the Filipino leader, then, the sage Chinaman considered, the best plan was to sell out the Philippines to Japan, who would doubtless be glad to buy, could subdue them more cheaply than the Americans could, "and doubtless govern them just as well afterwards," so that the American conscience would be easy on that score. When asked as to the possibility of the American Government raising one or more regiments in China to assist in the conquest of the Philippines, Li Hung Chang replied that, provided the men were enlisted in Manila and well paid, his Government could have no objection. He considered too, that it would be of advantage to China to have a number of soldiers instructed in the discipline of modern warfare, and expressed the belief that the men from the Chinese Province of Fukien would make good soldiers.

The War. The intelligence from the seat of war in South Africa during the past week has been of a kind to cultivate the virtue of patience and that determination to carry an undertaking through in the face of difficulties, which is a recognized characteristic of Britons. No one who had any correct knowledge of the real conditions could have supposed that the conquest of the Boers in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State could be accomplished by Great Britain without a struggle which would make serious demands upon her military resources. The successes—somewhat overstated in the first despatches—gained by the British troops over the Boers at Glencoe and Elandslaagte produced undue elation on the part of the British people and their sympathizers and induced in many minds the opinion that the strength and powers of the Boers had been overrated. But succeeding events quickly corrected this mistake and the despatches from day to day have made more and more plain how formidable are the military forces now arrayed against the sovereignty of Britain in South Africa. The first report received of General White's engagement with the Boers in the vicinity of Ladysmith on Monday of last week indicated that, though indecisive, the advantage had rested with the British and that General

White's position had been strengthened rather than weakened as a result of the engagement. But this conclusion was seriously modified by the news which soon followed that two British regiments, the Dublin Fusiliers and the Gloucestershires, constituting an advance column on the British left, having become entirely separated from the main division among the hills, and the mule train conveying their artillery and ammunition stampeded, were thus taken at a great disadvantage by a superior force of the enemy, and, after hard fighting and severe loss, were forced to surrender. This was heavy news for Britain, and all the more so because it gave occasion for her enemies to clap their hands. The loss was a severe blow to General White, threatened as he was by the Boer forces, whose aim was evidently to hem him in on all sides and cut off communication by rail with Durban on the Coast, and, if possible, crush the British army before reinforcements can be received. Whether or not the enemy has succeeded in destroying the railway connection is not certain at this writing. But telegraphic communication with Ladysmith has been interrupted and for several days past the news as to the situation there has been of a very meagre character. There has been in England much criticism of General White's generalship in consequence of the loss of the two regiments in Monday's battle, but the more prudent, and military authorities especially, consider it wise to wait for fuller information before passing judgment. General White, in his despatches, has gallantly assumed all responsibility for the disaster, but though it seems certain that some one blundered, it is quite possible that the fault does not lie at the door of General White.

It is now known that the town of Colenso, to the south of Ladysmith and on the line of railway between that point and Durban, has been captured by the Boers, and the investment of Ladysmith is therefore complete. No further relief can reach General White except by a force sufficient to overcome the Boer forces established at Colenso and at other points to the south of the beleaguered town. The great importance of Colenso as a position lies in the fact that it commands the railway bridge over the Tugela river, which at this season of the year is a torrent-like flood a hundred yards wide. The Boers can destroy the bridge and thus make the relief of General White at Ladysmith a much more difficult matter. The Boers are no doubt putting forth their best endeavors to secure the destruction or capitulation of General White's army. But provided the latter is sufficiently supplied with provisions and ammunition there appears to be good reason to hope that he will be able to hold his own against the enemy for some time. Reports have indeed been rife in European Capitals for some days past of the capitulation of General White, but no credit is given to these rumors at the British War Office. The last intelligence received from Ladysmith before the cutting of the telegraph lines on Thursday indicated that the British were more than holding their own in an artillery battle then in progress, and, by a pigeon despatch, it is learned that on Friday considerable loss was inflicted on the Boers by the destruction of one of their camps in the vicinity by a well-planned attack of the British.

The latest war news at hand as we go to press, confirms the truth of what is given above as to the general situation. General Sir Redvers Buller has been now for more than a week in Cape Colony, and is no doubt laying plans and vigorously preparing for his campaign. Comparatively few of his forces, however, are yet arrived, and two or three weeks at least must elapse before he can take the field at the head of an effective army, though it seems probable that at an early date a sufficient force may be sent to Natal to check the Boers in their advance upon Pietermaritzburg, the capital, and Durban the principal seaport of the colony. General White is bravely and successfully holding his ground at Ladysmith, but the whole situation in Natal is of course one which causes the gravest anxiety. So far as is known Kimberly and Mafeking are still holding out. What the plans of Sir Redvers Buller are he wisely refrains from telling the world. Some steps are taken by him to puzzle the military experts, and whether he means to go to the relief of General White in Natal or to march northward against the Boers through the Free State to the Transvaal when in position to do so, can only be conjectured.