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A Great Harvest. The usual experience in reference to harvests in the Canadian Northwest has been that results have fallen short of the forecasts. What with frost, drought, rust and other enemies to reckon with, it is not surprising that the fairest prospects should fail more or less of fulfilment. But for the year 1901 the grain harvest of Manitoba and the Territories appears to have fairly exceeded all forecasts. In Manitoba the total area under wheat for the year, as shown by the official returns, was 2,011,835 acres, giving an aggregate yield of 50,502,085 bushels, a little more than 25 bushels per acre. Such an average yield per acre on the whole area of over two million acres must be considered marvellous. The total oat crop of the Province was 27,796,588 bushels an average 40.3 bushels per acre on 689,951 acres. The barley crop amounted to 6,536,150 bushels from 191,000 acres, an average 34.2 bushels per acre. Besides these principal grain crops, the Province had about 21,000 acres in flax, yielding an average of 12.7 per acre; 2,707 acres in rye yielding 23 bushels per acre, and 879 acres in peas averaging 18.6 per acre. The total grain crop of the Province was 85,179,857 bushels. In respect to other branches of agricultural industry the returns indicate development. The potato crop of Manitoba exceeded four and three-quarter million bushels, with an average of about 200 bushels per acre. Other root crops yielded an aggregate of 2,925,362 bushels. About 101,000 turkeys and geese and 306,000 chickens were marketed. Manitoba is not of course distinguished as a dairying country, but the total return for dairy products is in the neighborhood of a million dollars. The yield of wheat in Assiniboia, Saskatchewan and Alberta for 1901 was 12,673,343 bushels, an average of 24.92 bushels per acre as compared with an aggregate of 4,028,294 bushels and an average per acre of 9.75 the previous year. The oat crop of the territories in 1901 was 11,113,066 as compared with 4,226,152 in 1900, and the barley crop amounted to 736,749 bushels as compared with 353,216 the previous year. The figures given for 1901 are not however from the actual returns of the harvest, but are said to be estimated on thoroughly trustworthy data.

Arbitration of Strikes. The strikes which from time to time occur in the industrial world result in heavy losses through the unemployed forces of labor and idle capital, and besides these losses in which labor and capital share directly and mutually, there are frequently, in the case of great and prolonged strikes, great losses and inconvenience to related trades and to the public generally. If therefore the disturbance of the relations between labor and capital, which a strike involves, can be avoided by referring a dispute to arbitration, it is evident that much is saved thereby, and if capable and honest arbitrators can be secured, the interests of justice are just as likely to be served through their action as by the far more expensive method of fighting out the issue by means of a strike. One of the greatest difficulties in the way of making arbitration effective is to secure a guarantee that the parties immediately interested will accept and abide by the decision of the arbitrators. To make this imperative by legislation would be considered an undue exercise of power on the part of the State. But if the parties to a labor contract are willing to give the necessary guarantee for the acceptance of the arbitrator's decision the difficulty is removed. It is interesting to note that to some extent this is being done through the action of certain corporations and their employees in providing for the acceptance of arbitration in case of disputes under the penalty of a heavy fine. A dispute between

a Brooklyn shoe firm and its employes was lately decided by action of a representative of the State Labor Department, named by the State Board of Arbitration with the concurrence of both parties to the dispute. An agreement had been entered into a year ago between the firm and its employees to submit any disputes which might arise to arbitration, each party binding itself in the sum of \$10,000 to accept the decision of the arbitrator. The guarantee of the firm had been deposited in full with a trust company, while that of the employees, which was raised by assessment upon their wages, amounts as yet to only \$5,000. It appears, however, that the sum at stake was in this case sufficiently large to be binding. The decision in this instance was favorable to the claims of the company, but the employes are doubtless wise to accept the finding of the arbitrator, apart from the fact that the \$5,000 are at stake. One of the best features of this plan of arbitration is that neither party is likely to insist on claims which cannot be reasonably supported.

A Question of Government. The Stratford *Herald*, an Ontario paper, has been discussing the subject of the Governor-Generalship. As quoted by the Toronto *Globe*, the *Herald* thinks that the office calls for a man of the largest and most practical statesmanship, who should take an active and positive part in directing the public affairs of the country. It would have a man like Roosevelt in the Governor's chair, a real working head and not a figure-head. "What we want," says the *Herald*, "as a power higher than the Premier, party and Parliament in this country, is not a figure-head of royalty, but a personal functionary of use. The Governor of Canada should be a Canadian. He should know our national politics, temper and aspirations better than the Premier. He should know our commercial possibilities better than the Minister of Trade and Commerce. He should be an interprovincial and Federal High Commissioner, interested in exploiting our resources, studying the diverse nationalities resident among us, and observing the local exigencies of our distant provinces and territories. Vested with influence greater than that of a party Premier or a Cabinet Minister, he should suggest, and, wherever possible, initiate legislation in the House of Commons for the great end of making out of this colony a nation." The *Globe* objects to what the *Herald* demands in connection with the Governor-Generalship, on the ground that it is incompatible with our present form of government. If we are to have as the head of the government, a man with the powers and functions of a President, we must change the government to a republic. If the supposed Governor-General who would be a real head of the Government, abler than the Premier and vested with greater influence, held other views as to political policy than the Premier and his colleagues, there would inevitably be friction between the Governor and the Government; if he held views accordant with the party in power, then this ablest and most influential Canadian Statesman ought himself to be Premier. So that if this somewhat ideal Canadian statesman whom the *Herald* would make Governor General, were in accord with the dominant party in Parliament, he should lead that party as Premier, if he were not in accord with it, he could render much more efficient service to the country as leader of the Opposition than as Governor-General. The *Globe's* view of the subject seems to be a sound one. The monarchical element in government as we have it in Canada is not thrust into prominence, but nevertheless our government, is actually and essentially monarchical in form, and there cannot be tacked on to it a functionary that

belongs to the republican form of Government. There is indeed a very important sphere of influence possible to the representative of the Sovereign, just as in the United Kingdom there is such a sphere for the Sovereign himself. But that influence must be personal rather than governmental. The great value of a wise and virtuous personality, the largest intelligence as to public affairs and the keenest interest in the country's welfare on the part of the Sovereign, or of the Sovereign's representative in the self-governing colony, should be fully recognized, but under the British form of government, the responsibility for the initiation of legislation, for political policies and for the details of administration must rest with the Prime Minister and his colleagues and not with the Crown or its direct representatives.

Temperance Legislation in Ontario.

In view of the fact that the Government of Ontario has announced its intention of introducing, during the present session of the Legislature, some measure dealing with the liquor traffic, the subject has now become one of acute interest in that Province. It is reported that the proposed legislation will be introduced on Tuesday of the present week, and there is of course eager speculation as to its character. There is probably ground for the expectation that the measure to be submitted will follow pretty closely the lines of the Manitoba Liquor Act, and if, in the judgment of the Government, improvements upon that Act are possible in the way of rendering it more effective as a prohibitory measure, it seems probable that they will be incorporated in the Ontario Act. What criticism the Government is receiving in respect to the proposed measure does not have reference to the lines upon which it is expected the Act will be drawn, but to what is understood to be the Government's purpose to submit the Act to a referendum, before it shall be declared law. It is understood that more than a bare majority of the votes cast will be required to confirm the Act. The percentage determined upon will probably be announced when the bill is introduced. One report intimates that 57 per cent. of the votes cast in the referendum will be required by the Government.

De Wet Eludes Kitchener.

The latest and most important news from South Africa has reference to the result of a combined movement by a number of British columns, made under the immediate direction of Lord Kitchener, with the purpose of securing the famous Boer leader, De Wet. The advance began on the night of February 5, the whole force moving from various directions and forming a continuous line of mounted men on the west bank of Liedensbergs Vlei, from Frankfort as far south as Fanny's Home and thence to Kaffir Kop. It is said that Lord Kitchener had been elaborating the plan of the movement for some months past. He personally superintended the final preparations, and the great move was made over a front of 40 miles with the object of driving the Boers against the railway lines where armored trains were patrolling. Altogether twenty-three British columns were employed in an immense irregular parallelogram, formed by the line of block-houses and the railroads between Wolvehoek, Frankfort, Lindley and Kroonstadt. De Wet, with forces estimated at 2,000 men, was within this district, and Lord Kitchener's purpose was to secure the Boer leader and as many of his men as possible. So far as capturing De Wet was concerned, the great plan failed. The wily Boer ordered his force to disperse, and himself, with a small following, on Thursday night succeeded in forcing his way through the block-house line to the southward by rushing his cattle against the wire fences and mixing up with the cattle. Three of his men were killed. But though the movement was not successful in effecting the capture of De Wet, it resulted in the capture of a considerable number of his followers. The casualties of the Boers, so far as learned by Lord Kitchener, were 23 in killed, wounded and prisoners, 700 horses and many cattle. The British casualties were ten.