

# Messenger and Visitor

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## The Kaiser's

### Health.

A few weeks ago the German Emperor underwent an operation for the removal of a polypus from his larynx. The operation was entirely successful, and the surgeon in attendance, after a microscopical examination of the removed tumor, has pronounced it entirely benignant in character, which means that it was not of a cancerous nature. It is very natural, however, that under the circumstances there should be some anxiety as to the Kaiser's condition, seeing that both his father, the late Emperor Frederick, and his mother died from cancer. It is also recalled that the first diagnosis of the Emperor Frederick's case asserted that the growth on his larynx was of a purely benignant character. So far as can be gathered from the official and other reports concerning the Emperor's condition there appears at all events to be no cause for immediate anxiety in his case. The wound in his throat is said to be healing well, and in other respects his health is said to be satisfactory.

## The Growing

### West.

The Canadian Northwest is without doubt making rapid and substantial progress. The efforts of an industrious and enterprising population—constantly increasing—is resulting in adding year by year to the wealth of the country. Increasing wealth means less of hardship for the people and more of the comforts and luxuries which belong to the older settled parts of the country. According to the reports of observers, the changes wrought in the condition of the country within a few years is very striking. Mr. E. B. Eddy, head of the E. B. Eddy Manufacturing Company, has lately returned to Ottawa after a trip through the Northwest and is much impressed with the progress made by the country since his last previous visit some four or five years ago. "I have travelled through many countries," Mr. Eddy is quoted as saying, "and I have never seen such an area of fertile lands, combined with such a minimum of unproductive soil as there is from a point one hundred miles east of Winnipeg westward to the foot hills of the Rocky Mountains. The growth and development of the west since my last visit four or five years ago is simply marvellous. New towns have sprung up along new branches of railway; others have greatly developed. Business everywhere is good. The growth of Winnipeg has been wonderful in every way. In respect to expansion of business, the improvement of streets and the erection of new buildings, I do not think there is a city of its size and population in America that is doing the same amount of business, improving its streets to the same extent, and adding so rapidly to its dwellings as is the city of Winnipeg. There is a great future within a few years for Winnipeg. If the growth of the past three or four years continues it will be the second city of Canada. . . . Along the entire distance from Winnipeg to Calgary new communities are springing up, and the older places are going ahead at a far greater rate than in the east. Moose Jaw, Medicine Hat, Regina—all these places are three times as large as on the occasion of my previous visit five years ago. Calgary has something over 7,000 people. It would surprise you to see the fine stores and dwellings that are going up and the amount of business that is being done there. Between Calgary and Edmonton little towns are being built up at every eight or ten miles, and the air positively rings with the sound of saw, hammer and trowel. Edmonton is a fine town, situated in the midst of a beautiful farming country. It now has a population of a little over 5,000, and is increasing very rapidly indeed. It has six banks already, and several beautiful warehouses, stores and buildings. Strathcona, on the opposite side of the river, is growing apace, and possesses two banks. Edmonton has a rosy future before it, and when the new railroad line from Winnipeg reaches there it will greatly increase the volume of business now transacted in that district."

## Colombia's

### Protest.

President Marroquin of Colombia, has addressed a protest to the Senate of the United States respecting the course pursued by the Government of that country in reference to the revolted State of Panama. The note of President Marroquin intimates that the Government and people of Colombia have been painfully surprised at the official announcement that the Government at Washington has hastened to recog-

nize the Government consequent on a barrack's coup in the department of Panama. The note then proceeds:—"The bonds of sincere and uninterrupted friendship which unite the two Governments and the two peoples; the solemn obligation undertaken by the American Union in a public treaty to guarantee the sovereignty and property of Colombia in the Isthmus of Panama; the protection which the citizens of that country enjoy, and will continue to enjoy, among us; the traditional principles of the American Government in opposition to secession movements; the good faith which has characterized that great people in its international relations; the manner in which the revolution was brought about, and the precipitance of its recognition, make the Government and people of Colombia hope that the Senate of the people of the United States will admit their obligation to assist us in maintaining the integrity of our territory, and in repressing that insurrection which is not even the result of a popular feeling."

## Value of

### Torpedo Boats.

The value of submarine torpedo boats in naval warfare is a question upon which there are differences of opinion among experts. The French naval authorities have placed a high value upon torpedoes, while the British have been inclined to regard them as of small practical value in actual warfare. Some experiments with a view to testing the value of torpedo boats were lately instituted near Cherbourg, France, and according to a Paris despatch the experiments are considered by naval experts as the most important evidence yet adduced of the efficiency of this branch of the naval service. The very swift, quick, manoeuvring, armoured gunboat Grenade had every opportunity to defend herself against the attack of the submarine torpedo flotilla, the projectiles of which were torpedoes loaded with sufficient explosive charges to clearly indicate whenever the target gunboat was hit. The Grenade manoeuvred and gyrated at a speed of nineteen knots, discharging her rapid firing guns at the submarines whenever they emerged. The torpedo boats, however, succeeded in eluding all projectiles aimed at them, and in their turn scored a clear victory by hitting the Grenade eleven times under the water line, near her magazines. Finally one of the torpedoes hit the Grenade and exploded with the experimental charge between the keel and the propeller tube, thereby making the Grenade absolutely helpless. The Grenade had to be towed back into Cherbourg and put into dry dock. These experiments took place during average Atlantic weather, with a heavy ground swell and a strong westerly wind. The results are regarded at the Ministry of Marine as a conclusive argument for still further increasing the submarine torpedo flotilla.

## The Dominion

### Military Camp.

It is understood that the Minister of Militia has concurred in Lord Dundonald's recommendation for the purchase of a site near Kazubazua on Gatineau Valley Railway, some forty odd miles from the capital upon which to locate the proposed central training camp for the Militia. The property comprises about thirty thousand acres, and is beautifully wooded and watered, there being no less than eight lakes within its limits. English army officers who have seen the place are said to have pronounced it superior to Aldershot, Salisbury or any English military camp. The site is a strip of land running four miles east and west, and eight miles north and south. A permanent barracks will be erected on what is known, as Big Danford Lake, a sheet of water two miles long and a quarter of a mile wide. The C. P. R. which lately acquired the Gatineau Valley Railway will construct a branch from Kazubazua to the proposed barracks, a distance of three miles. One thousand men, comprising all branches of the service, will occupy the camp each year from May to October. Two thousand additional men will be trained there during the summer.

## Apple Culture in

### New Brunswick.

The intention of the Government to put forth efforts to encourage fruit culture in New Brunswick should command approval. There are parts of the Province which it is very evident, are not well adapted to orcharding, but there is sufficient evidence to indicate that there are other considerable

sections in which the conditions for apple culture, and probably for the raising of other fruits, as the cherry and the plum, are exceptionally favorable. Comparatively very little has been done in New Brunswick in the line of up-to-date orcharding, but the Province produces some very fine samples of apples, and from personal observation we have reason to believe that apple culture in accordance with modern methods would in many of the inland sections of the country produce excellent results. The plan which it is said the Government has in view is to arrange for the planting of orchards on several farms in different parts of the Province. The orchards will vary from one to two acres in extent and from fifty to a hundred trees will be planted. The Government will furnish the trees and also send a man to direct the planting and laying out of the orchard. The trees being properly set out, the owner of the land must sign an agreement for ten years that he will care for the orchard according to directions and instructions of the Department of Agriculture, which will be kept up to the latest methods of horticulture. The fruit produced will belong to the owner of the orchard. This plan will test the suitability of various sections for fruit culture and each orchard so planted and cultivated will afford a constant object lesson to all the neighboring farmers in respect to the most approved methods of horticulture as applied to the raising of apples. The results, if the plan proposed shall be carefully carried out, can scarcely fail to be of very considerable value.

## Rubber Culture.

The extensive, and of late years rapidly increasing, employment of caoutchouc or India rubber in the arts has promoted a growing demand for the article. This increased demand, and consequently increased price, has naturally stimulated the cultivation of the trees from which India rubber is obtained in the form of gum. A good deal is being done in this line in Mexico and other tropical or semi-tropical parts of America. Joint stock companies have been organized for the prosecution of this industry in different places, and the people of the United States and of Canada are being widely invited to invest in an enterprise which they are assured is certain to yield very large returns. There is certainly no question as to the legitimacy of rubber growing, and one would suppose that with the great demand for the article and its high price, the industry should be profitable if well managed and pursued under favorable conditions. It should however be considered that rubber cultivation in Central America is largely of the nature of an experiment and the same contingencies attach to it as to other experiments. In this, too, as in other enterprises, much must depend on the ability and the honesty of the management. It may be profitable to invest in some companies and quite the reverse to invest in others. Our attention has been called to a report published not long since by Mr. Cook, explorer of the Department of Agriculture at Washington, in which he cautions the public against placing too implicit confidence in the representations made in some quarters as to the certainty of securing large returns from investment in the stock of rubber plantations. The following paragraph from Mr. Cook's report indicates its general tenor: "The possibility of large returns is a powerful attraction to investors and often renders them blind to the equal or greater possibility of loss. The large profits calculated from rubber culture on theoretical grounds have not prevented some estates from proving a total loss and do not render rubber culture a more secure field of investment than other agricultural enterprises. A rubber plantation yielding perpetually an abundance of high grade rubber might be as good as a gold mine, but investors must expect that the profits of plantations will be subject to vicissitudes. It may be legitimate to represent the profits of a certain rubber enterprise as more than its competitors in the same or other lines of investment, but those who claim that rubber enjoys any special or unique security either deceive themselves or wish to deceive others. If the margin of possible profits be larger than in other agricultural industries, the universal lack of experience makes it the more difficult and uncertain of realization. Moreover the demonstration that rubber culture is really a highly profitable business would attract so many aspirants to fortune that the anticipated rise in the price of rubber might never be realized; and although there is not likely to be any overproduction for many years to come, the perpetual dividends sometimes advertised can scarcely be assured."