

## IMMIGRATION TO CANADA.

The latest annual report of the Canadian Minister of Agriculture contains many facts and figures of interest. It shows that during last year 79,169 immigrants made their home in some part of the Dominion, as against 103,524 in the preceding year. The reduction of 25,000 has been due to two causes:—(1). The large decline in emigration from Great Britain, Germany, and Russia. And (2). The rebellion in our North-West, which is known to have changed the destination of many British Agriculturists that had intended to settle in the Dominion. Still, the accession to our population was of moment to so new a country, and was much larger than in any one year before 1881. There is every reason to believe that the immigration of this year will be much larger, and that of the succeeding year will be larger still. The reports of our agents in Great Britain are very encouraging. Knowledge of Canada and its resources that will be diffused by the great Colonial Exhibition will of a certainty have a marked effect.

The Minister of Agriculture speaks of our immigrants as a good class of settlers, and makes the satisfactory statement that all who have come to seek for work met with regular employment, and that they were all satisfied with their new home.

## MILK, BUTTER AND CHEESE.

Our subscribers in the country, especially those who go in for dairy farming, will be much interested in studying the following table compiled by D. W. Lewis, of New York, which shows approximately (on the basis of 46.6143 quarts of milk to the 100 lbs.) the worth of milk compared with rates of butter and cheese:—

Price per 100 lbs.	Equal cents in quarts.	Equal cents in Butter.	Equal cents in Cheese.
70	17½	17½	7
82	19½	20½	8½
87	21	21½	9
93	22½	23½	9½
99	24	24½	10
1.05	25½	26½	10½
1.11	27	27½	11
1.16	28½	29	11½
1.22	30	30½	12½
1.28	31½	32	13
1.34	33	33½	13½
1.40	34½	35	14
1.51	37½	37½	15½
1.63	40½	40½	16½

Mr. Lewis mentions that in one recent instance, a New Jersey community, within thirty miles of New York, who contemplated starting a creamery, were led by study of the above figures, to let well-enough alone, and content themselves with continuing shipments of milk. The publication of this table in a city journal may, however, also lead our city friends to calculate the milkman's profits.

It will of course be necessary to explain, concerning the above table, that when pure milk is worth 70 cts per 100 lbs. (a little over 46½ quarts) it is worth 1½ cts. per qt., the rate for butter should be 17½ cts., and for cheese, 7 cts., per lb. It would appear from this table, that when factories are giving \$1.05 per 100 lbs. (2½ cts. per qt.) for milk, the farmer had better sell the raw product for that price than manufacture it into butter at less than 26½ cts per lb., or cheese at less than 10½ cts. per lb. We are not told whether the value of skim milk, butter milk, and whey, are taken into consideration in this calculation; and this we should know, as the pure milk contains 12.6 per cent.; skimmed milk, 9.3 per cent.; butter milk, 9.7 per cent.; and whey 6.8 per cent. of nutrients.

## A WORD ABOUT REFORM.

The progress of reform is always gradual. The rising of a stream of public opinion is noticed at first with indifference, then with curiosity, lastly with interest, alarm, or hope, until it forces its way over the confining embankments, and sweeps away all resistance. One by one we see these streams springing up, fed by innumerable rivulets of individual experience, and swollen by countless showers of social and political events. At first we recognize only the speculation of a few, next we hear the expression of a more general desire. The new theory is combated and supported, it triumphs in the conflict for popular sympathy, and lastly it becomes the aim of the statesman. Sometimes, it is true, a politician introduces a measure which seems to have originated solely in his own brain. Not so; the great silent masses had long ago felt the need for the change, though their views had never before taken so definite a shape. Public sentiment is the father of legislation. Could prohibitory liquor laws have been carried in the reigns of the Georges, or could any statesman have dreamt of the emancipation of slaves in the days of ancient Rome? But when many years, it may be centuries, of modifying influences have been at work, the most fundamental opinions of the great public become changed, ideas, theories, wishes, agitations spring up from the soul of public opinion, and are taken in charge, and carried forward by the strong hand of the master.

In this respect public sentiment, and religious opinion is subject to change in the same way as the fashion, but inasmuch as it calls for more serious thought, the change is less rapid. Within the last quarter of a century, fashions have come and gone which in their day were considered the only thing possible, but which, if seen now, would provoke a smile. First came

the period when man complacently walked about with each lower limb encased in a sort of tapering bag, like a ship's whip; next he found it graceful and becoming to invert the encasement and let the superfluous canvas float about his foot; finally he became satisfied with the present compromise between the two. During the same twenty five years the fair ones have sailed around enveloped in a cone-like wire cage, have struggled with the obstinate pliability of drapery without wire, and finally adopted a device which would have caused the untutored eyes of their grandmother to be turned heavenward with a look of unspeakable horror. But if fashion is capricious, public opinion on the most serious subjects of human thought and action is not immutable; only it changes more gradually. Twenty, nay ten years ago, the Home Rule agitation had no sympathizers outside of those whose race affinities drew them nearer to the agitators. To day the leading statesman of the greatest of nations boldly champions the cause. Would he have thought of doing so had not the evils of the existing order of things and the difficulties of otherwise settling this vexed question first become the subject of thought for the whole English nation? It has been said that the poet reflects his age; the statesman is a more faithful mirror.

Mention has been made of Gladstone's Home Rule bill; we have had also a striking example in the recent License Act, just passed the local house. People in Halifax who were little acquainted with the growth of temperance sentiment throughout the rest of the province were somewhat astonished at the boldness of the bill, and their astonishment was largely increased at its passing. But public sentiment in the country supports it; and public sentiment is a source of irresistible strength.

## HOME RULE FOR IRELAND.

It is clear that Gladstone's endeavor to do justice to Ireland will cost him several supporters of note, but not so many as the English Tories at first supposed. "Home Rule for Ireland," or "No Home Rule for Ireland," has been the watchword at many a thronged public meeting since the Premier brought forward his plan. These meetings, on the whole, have done more good than harm to the cause of Ireland.

The Tories have not been very noisy or demonstrative in their opposition to the measure. The Marquis of Salisbury has declined to sanction the measure, but many Irishmen have felt it their duty to do likewise. His policy and that of his party could be gathered from the cablegrams of three weeks ago: to leave the recalcitrants of the Liberal party to lead the Opposition to Gladstone's two great bills. At the second reading of the Home Rule bill, the Liberal bolters, the remnants of the old Whig party, and most of the Tories, will unite to defeat it, but only with precarious chances of success.

Chamberlain's hostility to Gladstone has largely subsided. The "radical of radicals" wants to get his old place in the Liberal party. He has learnt that he has not the magnetism of the chief he would fain depose.

## OUR NEWLY APPOINTED PROVINCIAL EXAMINERS.

Much fault has been found with the appointment of Rev. Mr. Currie to the position of Provincial Examiner of intending teachers for Nova Scotia. The chief objection offered to this appointment, is that he is not a graduate or connected with the Provincial Normal School. It is our decided opinion that the "prizes" of the teaching profession should, as a rule, be reserved for teachers. It is probably for the public good that our Inspectors of Schools ought to be not only men of superior scholarship but practical teachers—men that have had actual experience in teaching different grades of schools, and that are consequently able to sympathize with all the teachers under their supervision. But it is by no means clear that Provincial Examiners of this Province ought to be men fresh from a teacher's desk in the Normal School or elsewhere. In the first place their positions are not so remunerative as to be considered one of the prizes of the teaching profession. In the second place it would be questionable wisdom to appoint as a Provincial Examiner any man whose business is (and would continue to be) the preparing of candidates for Teachers' Examinations. And, thirdly, as a Uniform Teachers' Examination is to a great extent, regarded as a useful adjunct of the educational work being done by all the important schools in the Province, it seems to us best to have as conductors of that examination men of broad views and of liberal education whose minds are not imbued with the peculiar ideas that are apt to be in the ascendancy in almost every institution of learning. It might, indeed, be to the public interest to have among our Provincial Examiners persons that live outside the Province. As, therefore, Rev. Mr. Currie has the requisite qualifications for his new position, we do not think there are good grounds for objection to his appointment.

The labor question continues to puzzle United States legislators. Boycotting, as it has been practised in Pennsylvania, New York and other states, is becoming a formidable and threatening evil. President Cleveland in a message sent to Congress on this subject, says: "Under our form of government, the value of labor as an element of national prosperity should be recognized, and the welfare of the laboring man should be regarded as especially entitled to legislative care. The present condition of the relations between labor and capital are far from satisfactory. The discontent of the unemployed is due partly to grasping and heedless exactions of employers, and alleged discrimination in favor of capital as an object of governmental attention. It must also be conceded that the laboring men are not always careful to avoid causeless and unjustifiable disturbances."