

## MONTREAL.

AUGUST 29th, 1890.

### "FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD."

There is no grander country in the world than this Canada of ours. Where in any other clime will you find scenery to equal the far famed Saguenay, in Quebec, Muskoka, Thousand Islands, and the North shore of the Georgian Bay, in Ontario, and the famous Rocky Mountains further to the West? Where in any other clime is there fishing to equal the Lake St. John region and in the many rivers of New Brunswick. Is there another country in the world where the busy men of our great cities can reach within a few hours, so many beautiful breathing spots. Is there another city in the world, besides Montreal, where the weary publishers and stationers can within so short a time reach the shores of so many picturesque lakes? Echo answers "No"! Nor are Montrealers dead to this fact. They have hied to regions innumerable, far enough away that the gentle wind sweeping through the pines whispers not of "trade," in the lapping of the waves against the rocks they hear not the clamorings of the vulgar throng asking for "renewals." In the cool still evenings, when the sun is just beginning to sink behind the mountains, they watch the opaline colors which the lake takes on, they linger until the moon comes up and sends her silvery arrows athwart the water, hear the gentle breeze sighing over the harp strings of the pines, and then steal homeward in the falling shadows at peace with all mankind—their creditors forgotten.

The first issue of the "Dominion Illustrated" under the new management—the Sabiston Lithographing and Publishing Co., speaks well for the future of that valuable journal. It contains good photo-gravures of Toronto, pen and ink sketches of the A. C. A. camp at the Lake of Two Mountains, and the late C. A. O. A. regatta at Lacune. There are two pages of very interesting matter devoted to sports. Science, Literature, and Art are also treated at some length. The Sabiston Co. promise great things for the future. They have engaged one or two more artists and have made arrangements for weekly letters from Toronto, Winnipeg, British Columbia, and other places.

The Reinhart Manufacturing Co., are busy getting their exhibit for the Toronto Exhibition in shape. It consists of almost everything in plush and oxidized silver line, all entirely new designs, and prices lower than last year. Several new patterns are shown in their Izzano goods. Mr. M. M. Vardon, the Western representative will be in charge.

Mr. Robert N. Lovell, of John Lovell & Son, spent a couple of weeks at Cushing's Island, Portland, the first of last month.

The firm of Porter, Kemp & Co. has been

dissolved, and a new firm, consisting of A. T. Porter, A. E. Kemp, and J. L. Teskey has been formed under the style of Porter, Kemp & Teskey. They make a specialty of flies and general fishing tackle, in fact are the only manufacturers of flies in Canada. There are only five men known who make salmon flies, and one of them is with this firm. One new thing they have in fancy goods are "Papa and Mama" dolls. Each doll is supplied with two strings; pull one, it says "Papa," pull the other and "Mama" is heard. These ought to sell well.

I met Mr. E. A. Taylor of Warwick & Sons, Toronto, as he passed through Montreal, the other day, after doing the Maratime provinces. He, of course, did not say that there is a big field there for Western push, but he knew it all the same and acknowledged a successful trip. We have pointed out before in these columns of the business lying in wait for Western enterprise. One or two have taken the pointer and are making the money. The Americans sell most, if not all, the goods used in the Maratime provinces.

The employees of John Lovell & Co., publishers, held a very successful picnic the first of last month. The Messrs. Lovell graced the gathering by their attendance.

PHONOGRAPH.

### SHORTER HOURS.

The spirit of industrial reform is now at work upon the labor day. Trade unionism is in earnest for an eight hour day. To predict that the hours of work will sooner or later be clipped down by regulation to a third part of the daily twenty four, would be to predict that the organization of labor will advance until there is little independent service left in the market, and that organized labor will be unanimous in making the unit of labor an eight hour day. It would not, we think, involve the concession that the employers of labor be acquiescent. Organization and unity of purpose on the part of the wage earners are all that would be required, and no one is yet able to say that these can be calculated upon. When they can be, the eight hour day will be won, despite the opposition of those who constitute the demand side of the labor market. It seems, however, like an enlightened movement. Over-production in many spheres of industry has already in different parts of the world brought about a shortening of the period of labor. Factories are often closed a few weeks or some months for the sole purpose of giving the market time to carry off excess stock. This shows that production may outrun consumption. By forcing on unforeseen cessation from work and earning, such over-production is the cause of great distress to the families of artisans. If production is limited by the mode of shortening the working day, it brings no distress.

Everybody is paid so much and expects no more, and wants are fitted to income.

If the industrial day were shortened, the shopkeepers' day would stand a better chance of being generally confined between reasonable opening and closing hours. What keeps shops open beyond daylight now is chiefly the business done with the laboring classes. These work up to 6 o'clock at least, go to their evening meal, and take a short rest after it, before they go out to spend any of their earnings with traders. The traders have to wait for them. That is a consequence of the long working day, and again is the cause of the lengthening of the traders' day, for the working public, knowing that stores will be open late, put off buying until a late hour. Other classes of consumers do a large portion of their buying in the afternoon, a part of the day in which their families often spend an hour on the street from choice. If the short labor-day were established, the bulk of all trade done would be transacted before 6 o'clock.

All the rest of the world is constructing itself on the plan of shorter working days. The mechanism of self-improvement, of family and social intercourse, of moral, intellectual and æsthetic cultivation, works most in the evening. Associations for religious, benevolent, enlightening and social purposes meet in the evenings. These might nearly as well be closed to shopkeepers and their assistants, as might the libraries, places of public entertainment, parks, gardens, etc., for the late-working shop hands have not the time to make use of them. They are cut off from the world when it is in its most unconventional, most human mood. There are bad influences then at work as well, but there are numberless good ones also, which people are not in close range of during the working day.

### RETAILERS' SACRIFICE MARKETS.

Certain dealers have been accused of systematically and almost wantonly despoiling the trade of other dealers who are not within the range of the formers' ordinary competition. The traders thus impeached are some whose headquarters are in cities or large towns. From their central place of business, it is alleged, they send forth stocks to other places, and these stocks are there retailed by the city concern's agent at reduced prices. The goods which are thus rusticated or deposited to provincial towns are generally of the "recent back number" description in city stocks. There is slow sale for them in a market where the very latest is always wanted, but at outside points where distance or the less fastidious demand makes the very latest not an imperative desideratum, they will sell. But it is desired by the pushing proprietor of this depreciated stock that it shall sell fast, and that it may sell fast all unnecessary ballast must be pitched overboard. The old conservative idea of getting as much as the