

Messenger and Visitor

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Canada's Women Workers. According to Vol. III. of the census of Canada recently issued, there are in the Dominion 2,154 women employed in manufacturing establishments "with functions of administration," that is as clerks, bookkeepers, time-keepers, etc. Their salaries aggregate \$681,572, an average of \$317 all but a few cents for each. The British Columbia worker gets more than her share of this, \$495; and the Prince Edward Island worker considerably less than her share, \$121. However there are according to the census, only three women so employed in the latter province. In the other provinces, the women employed "with functions of administration" in manufacturing establishments, and the average yearly salary, are as follows:—British Columbia, 25 employees, average \$495; Manitoba, 39, \$43; New Brunswick, 55, \$230; Nova Scotia, 103, \$273; Ontario, 1,375 \$324; Quebec, 547, \$300; the Northwest Territories, four employees, average salary, \$375. Twenty-five per cent of the women so employed are in the province of Quebec, receiving twenty-four per cent of the salaries paid to women in Canada under this head. Employed in industrial establishments, on wages, as factory hands, etc., are 61,220 women, the total sum paid in wages being \$10,757,590. The average is highest in the North-West Territories, where the employment is mostly in men's clothing works. The numbers employed, of women and girls sixteen years of age and over, and the average wage earning per day, are:—British Columbia, 1,168 employees, average 98 cents a day; Manitoba, 586 employees, average 92 cents; New Brunswick, 2,534 employees, 68 cents a day; Nova Scotia, 4,981 employees, 60 cents per day; Ontario, 28,216 employees, 72 cents a day; Prince Edward Island, 1,059 employees, 50 cents a day; Quebec, 21,613 employees, 66 cents a day; the Territories, 13 employees, \$1.24 a day.

Dishonest Insurance Companies. The reports of investigations into the managements of certain New York Life Insurance Companies have for several weeks past filled large space in the daily papers and have demonstrated the existence of rascality in the management of those companies, which in its extent, boldness and shamelessness is almost incredible. The public indignation which these disclosures have revealed has found expression from the pulpit as well through the press. The New York 'Evening Post' says: "The attacks upon the insurance companies from the pulpits of this city yesterday indicate widespread indignation against the Alexanders, Hydes, Depews, McCalls, Perkinses, and McCurdys who have been diverting the money of policyholders to their own pockets or to other illegitimate uses. Were there to be a popular vote to-day as to the men who in this country most richly deserved to be despised and distrusted, the names just mentioned would stand near the head of the list. With their high-toned directors as 'decoy ducks'—to borrow a phrase from one of the sermons—these men have secured vast funds in trust and have then deliberately betrayed that trust. In such a state of public feeling it is hard to see how the companies affected by the revelations can continue to solicit support. Their agents will be subjected to ridicule and insult. The Equitable has found it necessary to reorganize entirely, to bring in a new management, and to make drastic reductions in expense. In the New York Life and in the Mutual there has not, so far as the evidence thus far shows, been any such wholesale looting as in the Equitable. But the participation of the companies in the foul business of political corruption, and the 'missionary' efforts of the McCurdys have completely alienated the confidence of men with consciences. People are no longer in a mood to tolerate, in the conduct of these huge fiduciary institutions, any form of dishonesty."

The Northwest Passage Made. The whaling schooner 'Era' which arrived in New Bedford, Mass., last week from Hudson Bay reports that the Norwegian Arctic exploring expedition was successful in

making the Northwest Passage, the captain of the 'Era' basing his statement on a letter he had from Commander Amundson of the sloop 'Gjoa,' who was at that time (April 22) in King William's Land. The natives reported that the Norwegians had made the passage, and the commander later sent word that the Gjoa would work her way out to Behring Strait during the summer. There have been numerous attempts to discover the northwest passage, which for three hundred and thirty years has been believed to exist. Martin Frobisher in 1576 found that there were two or more openings to the west between the 60th and 63rd degrees on the American coast. John Davis, a scientific navigator, in 1585 to 1587, made three voyages, reaching a point 72 to 41 degrees N., which point he called "Sanderson's Hope," after the merchant who equipped his expeditions. Henry Hudson, in 1607 to 1610, made several voyages reaching 73 degrees, the most northerly known point of the east coast of Greenland. Sir Thomas Button, in 1612; William Baffin, in 1615, and John Scroggs, in 1722, each added considerable to the knowledge of the polar regions the latter's reports proving the existence of a northwest passage. Vitus Bering, or Behring, a German, in the Russian service, sailed in 1728 to the strait which bears his name. Captain Cook, in 1778 reached Cape Prince of Wales. Lieut. Edward Parry discovered in 1819 the wide opening to the north which he named Wellington Channel. In 1818 Lieut. John Franklin sailed on his first expedition; in 1825-26 on his second, and in 1846 on the ill-fated one which proved his last. The survivors of his party, however, reaching Cape Herschel.

Komura Arrives Home.

Baron Komura, Japan's chief peace plenipotentiary at Portsmouth, arrived in Tokio Oct. 16. His reception at the railway station was not enthusiastic, those present being principally Government dignitaries. The streets were strongly guarded by troops, police and gendarmes. The Baron drove to the palace in an imperial carriage. The Emperor showed exceptional honor to Komura by dispatching to Yokohama, where he landed from the 'Empress of India,' Colonel Inouye, His Majesty's aide-de-camp, who went alongside the steamer in a despatch boat and brought Baron Komura ashore. He landed at the imperial enclosure. While the Baron was on his way to Tokio by train Colonel Inouye constantly kept at his side, and on arrival at Tokio they drove together to the palace in an imperial carriage sent from the household stables. The Emperor received Baron Komura immediately and during the audience which lasted over an hour, it is believed the Baron made a full verbal report of the course of the peace negotiations. At the close of the audience the Emperor honored the Baron with a written personal message, highly prized by Japanese statesmen. The message expressed satisfaction at the fact that peace was concluded and commended Baron Komura's able services as shown during the negotiations.

For the Peace of the World.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the London 'Times' believes that the communication of the treaty of peace between Russia and Japan 'throws open the door to national readjustments wherein Russia is concerned. "I am able to state," he says "with the greatest certainty that we are on the eve of most important developments, which, without committing the powers chiefly concerned to any definite engagements, will nevertheless prepare the way for political combinations calculated to assure the peace of the world. I am not at liberty to disclose the nature of these developments, but may state that neither Russia, Great Britain, France nor Germany will have cause to complain as Germany did in attempting to justify her aggressive attitude regarding Morocco, that other powers are trying to isolate her. The formal notification of the exchange of the ratification of the treaty of peace made on Oct. 16, evokes widespread satisfaction. Its most appreciable effect, so far as Russia is concerned, will be the possibility of provisioning Vladivostok. Accommodation is being prepared there for 80,000 Russian prisoners of war."

MacDonell and

Tecumseh.

Alluding to the desire of the United Loyalist Association to communicate in some fitting manner the deeds of Lieut. Colonel John Macdonell and the noted Shawnee chief, Tecumseh in the war of 1812, the Toronto 'Globe' says: "The story of how Attorney-General Macdonell exchanged his law robes for the King's uniform and testified by a glorious death to the fine metal of his patriotism is something of which his countrymen are entitled to be proud. The death of his comrade, the brave Brock, on the same field has perhaps served to obscure somewhat the equally gallant ending of his young aide-de-camp, for Col. Macdonell was but twenty-five when his career closed at Queenston Heights. He had all the qualities which win admiration—youth, self sacrifice, courage, and ability—and it is hardly creditable that not only does no memorial of him exist in this Province, but that even his name and his deeds are but little known to this generation. The figure of Tecumseh in our daily history is as noble as it is mournful. It may be said that he did not fight for Britain, but for the preservation of his race from the advancing and submerging wave of palefaces. His Alliance with Britain may be said to have been merely a part of his policy, but he was drawn to that side by the just treatment and honorable dealings which mark relations of Britain with native races. He was indeed the protagonist of a dying and impossible cause. Under more equal conditions he had it in him to be the founder of a great Indian nation. He was a statesman as well as a sagacious warrior, and he time and again showed his moral superiority to the bulk of his countrymen by his humanity and chivalry towards the foes of his race. He fell desperately endeavoring to turn into a victory what actually proved to be one of the few discreditable incidents on our side in the annals of that war. The great Indian, the greatest redman of whom we have any account, did what lay in mortal man to save the cause which he had espoused, and fell in the midst of battle. There should be something in the capital of the Province to recall the fame of this remarkable aborigine."

Germany, France and Britain.

It has been a matter of common knowledge that some months ago there was friction between Germany and France over the Morocco question. The resignation of the French Foreign Minister, Delcasse, was connected with the incident, but the degree of tension that existed has been a matter of speculation. There was enough of mystery and suspicion about the situation to make it an inviting field for exploitation on the part of newspaper correspondents in search of the sensational, and they have not failed to turn it to account. If we were to credit all that some of these writers have put forth we must believe that France and Germany were on the very verge of war, that France had received the assurance of assistance from Great Britain in event of a conflict with Germany, that when the German Emperor learned of this situation he took ground which virtually signified an ultimatum and that war was prevented only by the intervention of cooler and more conservative heads in France, the resignation of M. Delcasse and the assumption of the control of Foreign affairs by the Premier. Improbable as these statements are, so far at least as Britain's part in the matter is concerned, they have obtained wide credence in Germany, arousing strong popular feeling. The German Government is said, however, to have received from Britain assurance that no promise of assistance was ever given to France in view of such a contingency as that named. This assurance will no doubt have the effect of allaying popular resentment in Germany, but unfortunately there is ill-feeling between the German and the British peoples, and a malign influence appears to be working to keep it alive.

Senator Fulford, of Brockville, Ont., died in the Newton, Mass., hospital on Sunday, Oct. 15, as the result of injuries received a week earlier in an automobile accident in a suburb of Boston. It was not at first supposed that he was very seriously hurt, but he evidently had received internal injuries which finally resulted in paralysis of the vital organs. Senator Fulford was a man of large influence because of his wealth and highly respected because of his character. His taking away at the comparatively early age of 53 is widely regretted. Mr. Fulford was a Brockville boy and began his career as a druggist. He became the proprietor of certain patent medicines which in the course of a few years brought him a large fortune, estimated by some at fifteen millions. He was appointed to the senate in 1900.