

THE MINNEAPOLIS JOURNAL TELLS IT "THE SLEEPING EMPIRE BEYOND," AND PROVES ITS POSSIBILITIES.

The Minneapolis Journal has gathered together some interesting facts in regard to Western Canada, "the land of the warm, wet, western wind," and the far-flung, fenceless prairie," which the late American Consul, Taylor, at Winnipeg called "the sleeping empire beyond." A contemporary observer at Manitoba and Assiniboia alone there are 60,000,000 acres of rich arable land, which could easily support a population of over 320,000. Much of this land formerly sold for \$3 an acre, but owing to the present immigration the price for favored sections has gone up to \$5, and sometimes \$15 an acre. Even \$50 an acre has been offered for choice lands in Southern Manitoba. The soil of this land is so deep that its fertility is practically inexhaustible, and many far-sighted American capitalists are purchasing large blocks of it. In order to open up this country the railroads are building numerous extensions and soon there will be prosperous settlements in regions that were not even surveyed a few years ago. Last year this region raised 63,425,428 bushels of hard wheat, the best in the world, from 2,520,380 acres. The average wheat yield on this land is 25 bushels to the acre, while 40 bushels of barley and 48 bushels of oats are common. The value of Manitoba's crops last year was \$40,000,000, which was distributed among a population of 246,464. Saskatchewan, lying north of Assiniboia, with an area of 114,000 square miles, is now being opened up by railroads, and Americans are finding their way there. It has a large wheat growing district, and is well adapted for cattle raising. Fine land in this territory may be had on the settler's own terms. The western portion of Assiniboia and most of Alberta are prairie land, and are admirably adapted for cattle raising. Indeed, large fortunes have already been made in this industry. Between the Red River and the Rockies it is estimated that there are 65,000 miles of coal bearing strata, hardly any of which has yet been developed.

The popular idea that the climate of Western Canada is severe has been a serious obstacle to its development. It is true the winters are cold. On the other hand, the warm chinook winds from the west make much of Western Canada, especially Alberta, distinctly more temperate than some of the Northwestern States. The equable climate of Alberta is highly praised by all Americans who have settled in it, and its Rocky Mountain resorts, such as Banff, Glacier House and Field, are patronized largely by Americans, especially by sufferers from hay fever. Even where the winters are found to be severe there is an offset in the fact that the days in summer are long and vegetation thus gets a great deal of sunlight. As to the general conditions of the country—climate, social and political—the Journal prints signed letters from former citizens of the Northwestern States who declare that they are entirely satisfied. The laws are just, the taxation is light, and churches and schools are being rapidly built. Many Americans, indeed, who have taken farms are growing rich, and even farm laborers find steady employment at good wages. All, of whatever nationality, are welcomed on condition that they will take a hand in the industrial development of the country. Apparently "the sleeping empire beyond" is awakening to a realization of its great possibilities.

Novel Mission of a Canadian.

Rev. C. T. Currelly, M.A., of Toronto, a well known student and graduate of Victoria University, left on May 2 for France on a quest as romantic as led by Sir Galahad in search of the Holy Grail. Mr. Currelly intends to spend two years and a half in Europe, principally in France and England, studying the conditions of life among the common people, in order to satisfy his own thirst for sociological information, and incidentally to obtain material for his Ph.D. thesis in connection with the department of political science of Toronto University. Mr. Currelly is of strong physique; his frame is hardened by the rigors of pioneer missionary work obtained in his two years' life as a traveling Methodist preacher in the Canadian Northwest. Relying on his splendid physical fitness, Mr. Currelly intends to become a laborer, and will work for his living among the peasants of France and artisans of London. Among other questions which he proposes to investigate is the oft-repeated query: "Why do the common people not go to church?" Mr. Currelly will study the question in France first of all, where the anti-church feeling runs high among the masses. Then he will live among the submerged tenth in London, where only five per cent. of the population attends church services. Mr. Currelly is by trade a wood-carver, but if this fails him, he is sure he will be able to prove himself a laborer worthy of his hire in some other department of manual toil. In the pauses of his labor between the French and English experiences, Mr. Currelly intends to spend six months in the dreamy atmosphere of Oxford.

"Pass Around the Bier."

"It is queer," says Dr. Lorimer of New York City, "what a liking young students have for long words and Latin quotations, and what dread possesses them of appearing conventional. I once knew a promising candidate who was given charge of a funeral in the absence of the pastor of the church. He knew it was customary for the minister to announce after the sermon that those who wished should step up to view the remains, but he thought this was too hackneyed a phrase, and he said instead: 'The congregation will now pass around the bier.'"

Truth may be at the bottom of a well, but there are very few good divers.

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Unnecessary Suffering.

How much wretchedness and misery there is in the world! Do you add to it or do you try to help those with whom you come in contact? Every time you speak, every time you act, you add to some one's happiness or misery. On which side do you throw your influence? Your opportunities may not be great, but do you ever cause unnecessary suffering in a world wretched enough at best? It is worth thinking about. Do you say cruel things when you might say things that would be kind? If you have the habit, doesn't it sometimes occur to you that you should quit it? The writer of this has been thoughtless many times, but as he grows older he tries very hard to avoid giving unnecessary pain.

Fate Wouldn't Supply Funds.

A woman left her husband a short time ago, giving as a reason for it that she had consulted an astrologer and been told by him that it was her destiny to be a great woman, but that in marrying she had committed a serious error. As long as she remained with her husband she would fail to achieve the greatness fate intended for her. She stayed away from home only four weeks, however.

"I see you doubt the astrologer's interpretation of your destiny," said her sister.

"Not in the least," replied the woman, "but neither the astrologer or fate provided the money, and as I had to give up money or fame I chose to sacrifice the latter."

The Love of Nature.

A real love of nature is one of the most valuable possessions which you can have, since it will continue to afford you happiness as long as you live. But in order to have this love you must get it while you are young, while you still have leisure to give it first place in your thoughts. Nature must be your first sweetheart or she will not be your sweetheart at all.

Didn't Reckon Foreigners.

It was a little boy in an American Sunday school who in reply to his teacher's question, "Who was the first man?" answered, "George Washington," and upon being informed that it was Adam exclaimed, "Ah, well, if you are speaking of foreigners, perhaps he was!"

Forgiving and Forgetting.

"Woman," said the crusty person, "may say that she will forgive and forget, but she will never let you forget that she forgave."—Baltimore American.

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"THY WILL BE DONE."

Not in dumb resignation We lift our hands on high: No like the nervous fainter, Content to trust and die. Our faith springs like the eagle That soars to meet the sun. And cries exulting: "Thy will be done."—John Hay.

When "great feet" are "trampling Upon the corn and wheat," Then dost not bid us "cower and writhe Beneath the iron heel?" In Thy name we exert our rights With sword and tongue and pen. And even the headman's axe may dash The message unto men.

Thy will, it bid the weak be strong. It bids the strong be just. No lip to fawn, no hand to beg. No brow to seek the dust. Wherever man oppresses man Beneath the liberal sun. Oh God, be there Thine arm made bare, Thy righteous will be done. —John Hay.

CANADIAN SNAKES.

Arthur Harvey, noted Toronto scientist, gives some information.

Writing to The Mail and Empire the other day, Mr. Arthur Harvey, who has more than a local reputation as a scientist, says: Your paper of the 15th informs us that some workmen destroyed 128 little snakes they found under some leaves in a Rosedale ravine. You call it a "groundhog" discovery," and "you think residents of the neighborhood will learn with pleasure of their prompt despatch."

They were probably small specimens of the snake which is not uncommon near Toronto, for I have myself found a number of them in similar situations at this time of the year, and once I found what you call a "groundhog" of them in the fall preparing to hibernate. Like all other Canadian snakes, except the Mississippi or northern rattlesnake, they are harmless creatures, and while not so handsome as the garter snake, the fox snake, the grass snake and several others which are rarer, they are pretty creatures, and wholly admirable to all who study the wonderful works of God.

The very movement of the snake is full of grace, and as Solomon said in Prov. xxx. 19, one of the four things hardest to understand. The arrangement of its scales is beautiful and their coloring is in all cases harmonious. To see a handsome snake disporting itself in the sun or toying with its prey, small flies, in clear waters is enjoyable.

There seems to be an instinctive horror of snakes, common to most people. I do not think it comes down from the time when men were trees-inhabiting monkeys, to whom of course snakes were dangerous; it is of much later origin. There are countries in which it is justified, for many are cursed with venomous snakes which are a real danger, and there it may be the part of prudence to kill all, on the Herodian principle. But here, where you have to go to the islands of the Georgian Bay to get rid of them, it is rather cruel to needlessly destroy fellow beings, and it is better to try to overcome the inherited repugnance to harmless reptiles, so far at least as to take their lives without necessity.

Kit's Sarcastic Size-Up.

Of all traits, mental and moral, there is nothing so becoming as selfishness. Generosity induces worry and wrinkles; consideration for others means more or less wear and tear on the nerves, and hence, on the complexion; altruism in all its forms means a giving forth of oneself, which, as every woman knows, is exhausting, and hence, unbecoming. But an ingrained, well-reined selfishness stands for peace and contentment and all else that makes for happiness and becomingness. Complacency ever defies wrinkles. She who is not only self-satisfied, but self-cared in past and present, in the art of growing old gracefully. Time need have no terrors for her. It is only those who have others to think about and who exhaust their vital forces in the service of others who dread aging before their time. Selfishness may not be the Fountain of Eternal Youth, but it goes a long way towards making a woman look like a success. "Know Thyself," might be changed to-day by the beauty-cultivists to read: "Think of thyself; there's no lovelier, nor cold cream, nor massage, equal to it for keeping the complexion smooth, bright eyes, cheeks round, and brow unfurrowed.—Kit, in The Mail.

Common Congratulations.

Canada and Lord Dundonald may both be congratulated on the choice made of a new commander for the Canadian Militia. Lord Dundonald confirmed in South Africa a reputation begun rather than made in North Africa. The Canadians whose devotion in more than one trying situation he was to witness were now to the battlefield. If Lord Dundonald has shown that the spirit of the ancestors who fought and died for British supremacy in North America survives in him, the Canadians in the struggle of British supremacy in South Africa have shown equally that the spirit of their forbears who held Canada against heavy odds for the British flag in 1812 is alive for wider if not greater service.—Saturday Review.

The Wild Pigeon Nearly Extinct.

The American Museum Journal reports as proof of the passage of the wild pigeon that that institution has difficulty in securing 12 specimens of succeeded only after a good deal of difficulty in securing 12 specimens of the bird for adding to its collection. It was only a few years ago that wild pigeons in countless number visited their regular feeding grounds in the Middle and Western States, and now they are so rare that specimens are almost unobtainable. The compiler of this paragraph has seen them as thick in a Canadian beech tree as the leaves themselves, not so very long ago. No satisfactory explanation of their virtual extinction has been given.



LOSS OF APPETITE

If your stomach is upset or in any way out of order—if food seems distasteful to you—if acidity, burning or fullness of the stomach prevents you from having an appetite—if you wish to eat and eat well—take, before each meal, a wine glassful of

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Just received, a quantity of pretty shaded glass vases, card receivers, flower stands and rosebells, usual price 25 cents, now selling at 15 cents; also covered cream jugs, sugar bowls, glass mugs, spoon trays, etc., usual price 10 cents, now selling at 5 cents on sale days.

Don't buy that Dinner, Tea or Chamber set you are thinking about till you have seen our goods.

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