

### The Art of Thinking.

Did you ever notice how bunglingly some men think? There is as much or more difference in the way men use their mental faculties as there is in the way they use their tools. Just as one man will proceed deftly and systematically to the accomplishment of a piece of work with everything conveniently at hand, every motion intelligently directed to the furtherance of the main purpose, and an expedient ready for every irregularity or difficulty which presents itself, so the ready thinker proceeds at once in a right line to the pith of a subject, sifting out the extraneous matter, defining the main point, and bringing to bear upon it all his available information. On the other hand, a clumsy thinker will chase a question up one side and down another, without getting anywhere or arriving at any relevant conclusion.

The mental like the manual faculties are susceptible of and require cultivation. It is only by practice and continual use that the dexterity and skill of the expert machinist or other manipulator are acquired. No matter how naturally ingenious and handy a man may be, he will lack deftness when placed upon work to which he is entirely unaccustomed. In order to think with facility a man must be accustomed to thinking. It is one thing to let the mind roam about among the things one knows, and another to put it hard at work and keep it there, grinding at something you do not know but want to. It is easy and entertaining to read an article which tells you something which you knew before and which you can endorse, but you learn nothing by reading it. It requires an effort to read an article which contains real information, however plainly expressed. It has to be studied, applied, digested, criticised; the suggestions raised by its perusal have to be followed out to their conclusions, and to conscientiously read an article of this character is a task which a man is inclined to shirk just as a lazy man might shirk a physical task. But compare the man who shirks with the man who reads and you will find in the first a mental bungler, in the second the acute and able thinker, the man whose head saves his hands and who is valued, respected, and trusted with the conduct of work and the administration of affairs, and rewarded accordingly. Always read a little ahead of yourself. Read matter which requires an effort upon your part to understand. The effort will not only place you upon a higher intellectual plane but the mental exercise will develop a habit of accurate thinking which will be of more value to you than volumes of average matter read only to be forgotten.—*Powers.*

### Japanese Coal.

Mr. J. C. Hall, H.M. Consul at Hakodate, in his trade report for the year 1891, refers to the coal deposits of the island of Yezo. Fifteen years ago it was estimated by the American engineers who made the first surveys for the Government that the workable coal beds contained 150,000,000,000 tons, or about two-thirds as much as the coal-beds of Great Britain. Doubts have sometimes been expressed as to the sound-

ness of this large estimate, but time and further investigation have more than confirmed it. An elaborate Japanese report, embodying the results of the most recent surveys, was published in March this year. From this carefully compiled official document it appears, as the result of actual surveys just completed, that there are in the workable coal beds over 600,000,000 tons of coal, the total for the rest of Japan being 700,000,000 tons. Of the Yezo coal, nine-tenths are found in one district, that of the valley of the Ishikari River, near the west coast; the remaining tenth being scattered over five fields, of which the most important, that called Rumoe, in the province of Terhiwo, lies quite close to the coast on the same side of the island, just north of the head waters of the Ishikari River. Then come the Soya coalfield at the extreme north of the island and the Kushiro on the south-east coast, each containing 10,000,000 tons. The first coal mined in the island, at Iwanai in the province of Shiribeshi, belongs to the smallest of the six coalfields, containing barely 2,000,000 tons. As regards the quality of this valuable mineral, although it is very uneven, and none of it stands in the front rank, even of Japanese coal, still it is all marketable, and some of the better class mines in the Ishikari fill, notably those of Horonai, Ikushumbetsu and Sorachi, yield a coal not at all inferior to the product of the Kiushiu mines, the famous and fast dwindling Takashima alone excepted. Though found in comparatively recent geological strata, they are true bituminous coals, widely renowned by their composition from all known coals of similar age, and equal in commercial value to Australian coal.—*London, England, Colliery Guardian.*

### Canada and the Northwest.

At the last meeting of the Manchester Geographical Society, Sir Francis de Winton, who some time ago was the owner of a large sheep ranche on the Bow River a few miles out of Calgary, delivered a lecture on "Canada and the Northwest," during the course of which he said that the town of Calgary was a noble instance of the development of the country. When he first saw it in 1881 it had three wooden houses; three years later there was a canvas town with a few wooden buildings; then the railway arrived, and the town was moved bodily some two miles nearer the mountains, canvas disappearing in favor of wood; and to-day the town has good stone and wooden buildings, a main street, good hotels, a club, was lighted by electricity, an important railway junction, and considered itself one of the smartest towns in existence, second only, perhaps, to Chicago. (Laughter.) Calgary was the capital of the Province of Alberta, and was the centre of the ranching or stock-raising section of the Territory. The big grey wolf and the sneaking coyote were serious enemies to the ranchmen, and it was a curious fact that after the destruction of the buffalo they disappeared, to reappear again on the introduction of cattle. Roughly estimated, there were at present in this territory about 50,000 to 60,000 head of cattle, 10,000 to 15,000 head of horses, and 40,000 to 50,000 head of sheep, having an aggre-

gate value of say 2,500,000 dollars. All this has been created within the last eight years.

### The Globe at Prince Albert.

The *Toronto Globe's* special travelling correspondent writes as follows of his visit to Prince Albert:

"I arrived here from Regina last night and found everything prosperous in the capital city of this enormous territory. The crops around Prince Albert are particularly good, being better in quality and yield than in any district I have visited this year. I have driven 25 miles in the country to-day and was astonished to find how fine the crops were. I visited the farm of Thos. McKay, M. L. A., who will have 12,000 bushels of magnificent wheat this year, that already threshed, averaging 30 bushels per acre. There is abundance of wood, water and hay, and the country is admirably adapted for stock-raising, but rather too broken for extensive wheat fields. Further back the country is more level. The town is nearly 250 miles north of Regina; 150 of it one travels across the great plain which our volunteers so well remembered on their march to Clark's Crossing in 1885. After crossing the south branch of the Saskatchewan, some twenty miles, the scene changes, and one finds the companionship of trees blazing in autumn beauty. I saw several spotted deer from the train and innumerable, geese and duck. I will visit the north country to-morrow.

### A Mysterious Mirage.

Many stories have been written about mirages and delusions, but none have been more interesting and curious than that of the Silent City mirage, which makes its appearance near the Pacific glacier, in Alaska. The discovery of this wonderful mirage was made by the Indians, who would tell of the city that was built in the clouds. The effect can be seen in the early part of June from 5 to 6 p.m. It rises from the side of the Pacific glacier. It first appears like a heavy mist, and soon becomes clearer, and one can distinctly see the spectre city, well defined streets and trees, tall spires, huge and old-shaped buildings, which appear to be ancient mosques or cathedrals. It is a city which would seem to contain at least 25,000 or 30,000 inhabitants. As yet no one has been able to identify it, although several have claimed to recognize the place. There is no city like it in Alaska, nor in any country around it for thousands of miles.

Six drifts of coal are being worked at Edmonton this season.

The *Edmonton Bulletin* says: "The lands department have issued a splendid sheet map of the Peace Hills district, being the southern subdivision of the Edmonton land district, showing the townships from 41 to 49, ranges 16 to 23. This map is a companion to the map of the Edmonton district proper already issued. These maps show land surveyed, lands entered for, lands patented and lands held by corporations, and are the greatest possible convenience to land prospectors or to anyone desiring information regarding the district."