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In an interesting notice of Ingersoll, the *Toronto Globe* claims for that place the distinction of being the cheese capital of Western Ontario. Situated on the Thames river and having abundant water power as well from that source as from the small lakes that encircle it, Ingersoll's progress has been in several ways gratifying. In part it owed its early success to the lumber trade. More than thirty years ago it received a healthy impulse from the establishment of an agricultural implement foundry—that of the Noxon Brothers. But it was to the cheese factory system, of which it became the recognized centre in its own section of country, that it was indebted for its marked industrial development. The movement began about twenty-five years ago. Last year the cheese exported was represented by some \$9,000,000. Of this trade most of the buying and storage of its district is done at Ingersoll, where there is also a weekly market during the season.

But Ingersoll is not the only point where the expansion of our cheese manufacture may be seen to advantage. In Central and Eastern Ontario, in the Eastern Townships and other parts of this province, in the Maritime Provinces, and in the Northwest, the dairy industry has had a fruitful awakening, which it is to be hoped will be, ere long, as productive for butter as for cheese. But it is probably in the great ranching areas of Assiniboia and Alberta that dairy farming will in the future yield the grandest returns. There are natural features which point to that vast region as the chosen field for Canadian butter and cheese making in the years to come. The native grasses are exceptionally bounteous and nutritive; noxious weeds, elsewhere the farmer's plague, are almost wholly absent; the summer temperature is cooled by mountain breezes, and spring water of the purest and most refreshing quality is among generous nature's most welcome boons. With these and other advantages the growth of an extensive dairy business in those favoured provinces is only a matter of time.

There are many wise sayings (with some not so wise) in Miss Frances F. Willard's annual address, as president of the W.C.T.U. "When at Grinnell, Iowa," she writes, "that awful cyclone came, some good fellow said: 'You ought to be thankful that your meeting came the week before;' but something in my soul queried: 'Why should I escape, and others so much better than I crushed and mangled out of recognition?' \* \* \* I decline to believe myself a favourite of Heaven." The rebuke (for such it is) ought to come home to thousands who think themselves exceptionally good, exceptionally favoured from above. It is a spurious piety that sees a providential dispensation in a

catastrophe to which scores or hundreds of human beings fall victims because some family or individual happened to escape or evade the peril. Those who interpret Heaven's designs by such a rule only betray their own selfishness and inhumanity. In the presence of disasters like that of Johnstown or the wreck of the Armagh-Newry train, with its living freight, we recognize the odiousness of such theories of providence. One is taken and the other left, but surely not because the survivor is more worthy than the victim.

A fresh complication has been added to the race and religious controversy in New England, in the form of a jealous rivalry between the Irish and the French-Canadian elements in the Roman Catholic dioceses. Of the entire population of New England, 4,010,529, the Catholics number 956,000. The foreign born population is 794,612. The French-Canadian Catholics are set down at 326,000, and the remainder, it may be presumed, are mainly of Irish birth or descent. If the two races, French and Irish, were equally distributed through the six states, there would be little room for disagreement, as the Irish are plainly in a majority. But it so happens that nearly one-half of the whole French-Canadian population is settled in Massachusetts, and the consequence is that in the archdiocese of Springfield the French-Canadian element has a decided numerical preponderance. Some years ago, when they were less strong, it was with difficulty that they succeeded in securing certain privileges, such as clergy speaking their own language, and the result was widespread discontent. Having the mastery now, they are in a position to urge their claims with force and effect, and it is this growing influence that the Irish of Massachusetts are inclined to resent. At the present moment the division in the ranks of the Roman Catholic population is peculiarly inopportune in view of the agitation on the school question. The subject will be discussed from all points of view at the approaching convention to which we have already referred.

The Behring Sea dispute, which concerns Eastern Canada in a general and remote way, is of real and urgent importance to our fellow-citizens on the Pacific coast. The claims of the United States are not the less embarrassing from being put forward in a vague and covert manner, which implies a sort of menace in case they should be disregarded. It is, indeed, the doubt of their own position which has been insinuated into the minds of our Pacific coast fishermen through lack of straightforwardness on the part of the Washington authorities that does them most grievous injury in the prosecution of their industries. The President and his Cabinet do not come out boldly and assert their exclusive sovereignty over the waters of Behring's Sea, but they make dark speeches and circulate documents that seem to take their right to such monopoly for granted. There is not a power in either hemisphere that would more promptly or more obstinately refuse to acknowledge so unreasonable a claim, if preferred by another Government, than the United States. It is, in fact, on record that, when Russia, which was, as owning territory on both coasts, in a different position from that which the Americans now occupy, attempted to enforce the principle of a *mare clausum* in the narrow northern portion of the Pacific, our neighbours pronounced an immediate and unqualified veto. It is a pity that England should allow the question to remain so long in suspense. The sealing season has been allowed to approach without any definite settlement

and we cannot be surprised at the indignant protests of the British Columbian press.

The *Victoria Colonist* makes a proposal which, it seems to us, is, under the circumstances, as reasonable as any plan that could be devised for an amicable understanding. Our contemporary recognizes the justice of the President's plea for the protection of the fur seals from indiscriminate slaughter. "It would be a very great misfortune," it says, "if those valuable animals were by reckless hunting to be completely destroyed." But at the same time the *Colonist* thinks that "some means of preserving them may be found other than that of setting up an inequitable and untenable claim." Then, after deploring the rupture of the negotiations begun by Secretary Bayard, it suggests that they should be renewed. "It would not," in the *Colonist's* opinion, "be difficult to frame regulations which, while they acknowledge the right of men of all nations to fish and hunt on the high seas in that part of the Pacific, would forbid the hunting of seals during a certain season. No one wants to interfere with the lawful jurisdiction of the United States in the Alaskan or any other waters." But other nations also have rights, and by sweepingly exclusive prohibitions to attempt to prevent their exercise is a proceeding which cannot be tolerated. The question is one for international regulation, and the longer a good understanding is deferred the more complicated and dangerous it becomes.

A feature in our progress which, for more reasons than one, is to us of peculiar interest, is the increased attention that has for some years past been devoted to our history. The number of students who are engaged on special lines of historic research is larger than ever before, and some of their investigations have proved remarkably fruitful. Mr. Lareau has written the history of Canadian Law; Mr. Read has compiled the Lives of the Chief Justices; Mr. Sulte never grows weary in shedding light on the growth of our population and the settlement of the country; Dr. Dionne finds hidden treasures of knowledge in obscure corners; Mr. Bues traces our great rivers to their sources and fills his chart with stories from the past; Major Huguet-Latour describes the organization of our parishes from the pioneer years of the 17th century; Mr. J. M. Le Moine, who has enriched us with gathered lore, is as indefatigable as ever in the cultivation of his chosen field; Dr. Stewart and Rev. Dr. Bryce show what Canada's share has been in the civilization of this continent; Mr. Cruikshank elicits fresh facts for the illustration of our glorious battlefields; Mr. Roy brings out Canada's connection with the heroic orders of mediæval knighthood; Mr. Hart relates, with fuller knowledge, the Fall of New France; Mr. L. R. Masson revives the memory of the Northwest Company and its valiant explorers; Messrs. Jodoin and Vincent preserve from oblivion what is left of the records of the Le Moines—a roll of honour of two centuries and a half. And this is but a tithe of the work that is being done in this domain of historic literature. Time and space would fail us if we attempted to mention the works which bear the honored names of Chauveau, Casgrain, Verreau, Tanguay, Rousseau, Marchand, Desmazures, and many others in this province, not to speak of their fellow inquirers in the Maritime Provinces, Ontario and the Northwest. Nor, in the distribution of credit, would the least share fall to Mr. Brymner, of the Archives Department, who has been the able and willing helper of them all.