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Messenger and Visitor.

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Immigration. From the published statements it appears that there is this year a somewhat larger than usual immigration to the Canadian Northwest. The people coming into the country are for the most part foreigners—Galicians, Russians, Scandinavians, etc.—and while some of them are quite intelligent, and many of them apparently people of sturdy, industrious character, who, under wholesome educational influences, may be expected to develop into valuable citizens, they do not for the most part represent a very high grade of civilization, and being unacquainted with British institutions as well as with the English language, they cannot be regarded as so desirable immigrants as people from the agricultural classes of England and Scotland would be. It is certainly highly desirable that at least a considerable portion of the people coming into the country should be English in their language and sympathies and able to adapt themselves easily to the political institutions of Canada. It is therefore gratifying to learn that, as a result, among other influences, of efforts being put forth by Lord Strathcona, Canadian High Commissioner in London, the Canadian Northwest is becoming much better known by the farming population of the British Isles and much more favorably regarded as a field for emigration. It seems but reasonable to expect that, as the resources and possibilities of the great grain growing and grazing districts of Western Canada become better understood in the Motherland, there will be an increasing number of British farmers, on whom new world competition now presses heavily, who will embrace the opportunity here offered of bettering their circumstances and of securing more favorable conditions for their families in this new country of great resources.

Lord Minto's Arrival. Before bidding farewell to Canada Lord Aberdeen had the pleasure of welcoming Lord Minto, his successor as Governor General of Canada. The Earl and Countess of Minto, with the members of their family and suite, arrived at Quebec by the Steamship 'Scotsman' on Saturday the 12th inst., and later on the same day, Lord and Lady Aberdeen took their departure by the Steamship 'Labrador.' Sir Wilfrid Laurier and nine members of his cabinet were present to welcome the new Governor General. Lord Seymour, Major General Hutton, Governor Jetté, Premier Marchand and other provincial and city dignitaries were also present to assist in the ceremonies. In a splendid coach, drawn by four horses and with all the honors proper to his rank and distinguished position, Earl Minto and his party were conveyed to the Citadel where they were warmly welcomed by Lord and Lady Aberdeen, by whom also they were accompanied to the Parliament building, where, with due pomp and solemnity, the installation ceremony took place. The ceremony included the reading of the Royal warrant appointing His Excellency Governor General and his being sworn in by Judge Sedgwick, Acting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The conclusion of the installation ceremony was heralded by a salute of 21 guns from the citadel. Then, after His Excellency had received and replied to an address from the Mayor of Quebec, the Vice Regal party returned to their steamer and continued their journey to Montreal, where they arrived on Sunday, and later proceeded to Ottawa. Lord Minto's seven year old son, the Marquis of Melgund, took a severe cold just before reaching Quebec, and a sharp attack of bronchitis which followed caused some anxiety, but soon yielded to medical treatment. Lord Minto is described as every inch the soldier in personal appearance, with a ruddy color in his face that

bespeaks robust health and a clear voice. His closely cut light brown hair is slightly tinged with grey and he has a heavy brown mustache.

Mr. Chamberlain on Anglo-French Affairs. Lord Salisbury's Guildhall speech, commented upon in these columns last week, has been followed by a speech from Mr. Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, delivered at Manchester, on Tuesday of last week. Mr. Chamberlain also dealt with matters of international interest and particularly with Great Britain's relations with France. Lord Salisbury's has been characterized as a fighting speech and the Colonial Secretary's remarks cannot certainly be regarded as more pacificatory in tone than were the Prime Minister's. Mr. Chamberlain reaffirmed the declaration of Lord Salisbury that British control of the whole valley of the Nile was not open to discussion and said it was the hope of every friend of peace that the withdrawal of France from Fashoda indicated the acceptance of this principle. Having enumerated a series of unfriendly acts on the part of France toward Great Britain in various parts of the globe during the past ten or fifteen years, Mr. Chamberlain went on to say that if better relations are to be established it will be necessary for French politicians to abandon tactics whose object has been to hamper and embarrass British policy even in quarters where the French have no interests to protect. In this connection special reference was made to Newfoundland where, despite the fact that the French fishery interests have declined to a comparatively insignificant point, the demands of the French and their interference with the development of the colony have continually increased. "At the present moment," said the Colonial Secretary, "Newfoundland is seriously suffering from an intervention which is of no advantage to France although a serious detriment to the British colony. If the Fashoda incident only serves to disabuse foreign statesmen of the erroneous conception that the British will yield anything to pressure, it will be a blessing in disguise."

The Spanish American Peace Commission. The joint peace commission, charged with the business of arranging definitely the conditions of peace between the United States and Spain, still sits in Paris. It may be presumed that some progress is being made toward the end in view; but the work of the commission is of a tedious character. The Spanish commissioners are now endeavoring to withstand the demand of the United States that Spain shall withdraw altogether from the Philippines. This, the United States commissioners hold, was plainly embodied in the protocol, while Spain puts forward a different interpretation of that instrument. Spain's hope of securing a combination of European influence in her favor, sufficient to induce the United States to concede the continuance of Spanish sovereignty in the Philippines, appears to be quite hopeless. A week ago it was thought that the proposed visit of the German Emperor to Spain on his return journey from the Holy Land might mean something in the Spanish interest, but it appears that the proposed visit had no political significance whatever, that the Emperor has now changed his intention, and that the royal party will not visit Spain. There appears to be nothing for Spain to do but to swallow the bitter pill of relinquishing her sovereignty in the Philippines, and the efforts of her commissioners will probably be directed to making a good diplomatic fight and securing as favorable terms of surrender as possible. It is understood that the United States Government is willing to recognize the right of

Spain to be reimbursed for her "pacific expenditures," in the Philippines, and it is said the United States commissions have agreed upon what the amount should be, which, according to the guesses of newspaper correspondents, is somewhere between \$20,000,000 and \$40,000,000. It is also believed that the acquisition by the United States of an island in the Caroline group will be made one of the conditions of peace. It is stated that the American commissioners are under instruction from their Government to inform the Spanish commissioners that there can be no further delay in the final conclusion of the work of the commission, so that an early decision of some kind of the points in controversy is expected.

Newfoundland and the French Claims. Mr. Chamberlain's Manchester speech, in which he alluded to the unreasonable action of France in connection with certain fishery privileges secured to her by treaty on the coast of Newfoundland, has naturally given comfort to the people of that Province, who are led to hope that the vigorous language of the Colonial Secretary on this subject foreshadows some decided action on the part of the Imperial government to remedy a condition of things which has been for a long time a fruitful source of annoyance and trouble to the Government and people of the Island. The people of Newfoundland cannot certainly be blamed for feeling that they are placed under conditions which are entirely anomalous in a British Colony and from which it ought to be possible to find relief. Comparatively few persons probably outside of Newfoundland have understood how much is included in the fishing privileges claimed in the Island by France and how seriously those French claims interfere with the natural rights and privileges of the people of the Province. What is known as "the French shore" extends along the west and north of the island, embracing, it is said, fully one-half of the whole coast line. On this part of the coast the French claim the right to prevent, and as a matter of fact, we understand, have prevented, the establishment of British settlements, the opening of harbors and ports, the development of mining industries, etc., even going so far as to prevent the selection of the terminus of a trans-insular railroad upon that part of the coast in which they claim treaty rights; and this notwithstanding that the French fisheries have declined to a point which renders their commercial value comparatively small. So far as the treaty of Utrecht, upon which the French claims were originally based, is concerned, it seems certain that it does not secure to the French any privileges beyond those necessary for the taking and drying of codfish, and that, for such purpose, it does not guarantee exclusive privileges. It appears, however, that certain privileges beyond those covered by the treaty were afterwards embodied in an Act of the British Parliament, but the people of Newfoundland do not admit that, either by treaty or by Act of Parliament the French have any right to the exclusive privileges they have long claimed in the Province. Recently a Royal Commission, having this subject under consideration, has visited the Island. It is said that this commission found the facts favorable to the contention of Newfoundland and that their report would be in accordance therewith. It seems probable that any French privileges embarrassing to Newfoundland, which are founded merely upon Parliamentary action, will be remedied by repealing the Act, and that the British Government will insist that France shall claim no other privileges in Newfoundland than are certainly guaranteed to her by the treaty of Utrecht.