

The French question in Quebec is the crux of Canadian politics, but it is not so difficult as the Negro question in the South or the Irish question in the North. The relative influence of Quebec in the Dominion must steadily decline. It receives no addition by immigration and loses largely by emigration. Montreal, our author thinks, is destined to be one of the great cities of the world. Standing at the head of ocean-navigation, nearly one-half of the whole trade of the Dominion passes through it.

Dr. Parkin devotes an interesting chapter to our great transcontinental railway. The 7,200 miles directly owned by the C. P. R., and the 1,800 miles indirectly controlled, give it a first place among the railway systems of the world. British Columbia had less than 50,000 people when this iron highway of commerce was constructed through four ranges of gigantic mountains. "The statesmen at Ottawa," he says, "who in 1867 began to look over the Rockies to continents beyond the Pacific, were not wanting in imagination; many claimed that their imagination outran their reason; but in the rapid course of events their dreams have already been more than justified. They were supplying the missing joints and fastening the rivets of empire. While they were doing this they were giving political consolidation to the older Provinces of Canada. Common aspirations and a great common task, with the stirring of enthusiasm which followed on the sudden widening of the Canadian horizon, did more than anything else to draw those provinces out of their own narrow circles and give them the sense of a larger citizenship."

The famous Douglas pine of our Pacific coast goes to England, Cape Colony, Egypt, and Australia. Already \$50,000,000 of gold have been taken from the Fraser and Cariboo mines. Dr. Parkin says: "In spite of the rapid growth of Vancouver it has never known anything of the roughness of new towns across the American border. On Sunday the place has an aspect of quiet respectability like that of an English cathedral town." Vancouver is the meeting-place of the empires extreme west and east. Three million pounds of tea have been landed on its wharves in a single week.

The vast region of Northern Canada, long considered fit only for a fur preserve, contains, a committee of the Canadian Senate reports, 274,000 square miles of good arable land; wheat will ripen over 316,000 square miles, barley over 407,000, the potato over 656,000 square miles.

The area suitable for pasturage is even greater, besides 40,000 square miles of petroleum area. "About 954,000 square miles, exclusive of the uninhabitable detached Arctic portions," says Dr. G. M. Dawson, "is for all practical purposes as yet entirely unknown." The Canadian export of furs in 1888 was over 4,000,000 skins. Great quantities of these are sold in Germany, and compete at the Novgorod Fair in Russia with the furs of Siberia. On the Saskatchewan, Athabasca and Mackenzie rivers are over 2,000 miles of steam navigation where, till recently, only the bark canoe of the voyageur conveyed the peltries of the north to the markets of civilization.

Dr. Parkin is a firm believer in the unity of the Empire. "It may be questioned," he says, "whether there is in Canada to-day any political passion so strong as opposition to absorption in the United States." He is enthusiastic in the praise of Canada as a home for the working-man. Its climate, though often severe, is exhilarating. "It drives men back on home life and on work; it teaches foresight; it cures or kills the shiftless and improvident. A climate which tends to produce a hardy race, a Puritan turn of mind which gives moral strenuousness, good schools, the leisure of winter for thought and study—all these tend to produce men likely to win their way by their wits."

Dr. Parkin has nothing but praise for our school and college system. McGill College in four years received donations of \$1,500,000. It has now seventy-four professors and lecturers, and one thousand students. In engineering and physics it is the most perfectly equipped institution in the world. Nor does Toronto University suffer greatly by comparison, although its State aid seems to dry up the channels of private beneficence. In ten years no less than \$5,000,000 have been given to the Protestant colleges of the Dominion.

The voice of Canada is heard with more and more attention on large questions of Imperial policy. Of this the Halifax and Behring Sea arbitrations are proof. "Canada," says our author, "is a country which certainly stirs the imagination of her children—which begets in them an intense love of the soil. If the front which Nature sometimes presents to them is austere, it is also noble and impressive. In the breadth of its spaces, the headlong rush of its floods, the majesty of its mountain heights and canyon depths, and the striking contrasts of its seasons in their march through the fervid