

There is, however, no ground for despair. With skill and capital, with the best modern appliances, with needed modifications in the mining laws and with proper and ample provision for technical instruction in mining and metallurgy, this industry in Ontario ought to have a great and prosperous future.

A suggestion is made in the last number of *Canadiana* which is at least worthy of thoughtful attention. It is proposed that the various literary, scientific and art societies of this city should be united into a single body. It appears that the project has received the approval of the Natural History Society, and that Sir William Dawson has given expression to the desire for the accomplishment of some plan of amalgamation. *Canadiana* complains, not without reason, of the prevailing indifference to intellectual advancement in a city which has so far-reaching a reputation for physical culture. "The attendance at lectures or the more serious class of entertainments, which in other cities attract crowds of interested listeners, is," says our contemporary, "so meagre as to imply apathy, if not ignorance. If the membership rolls of the various societies be carefully examined, the same names will be found in several, and the total extremely small. Under these circumstances it is evident that if some scheme could be devised by which the scattered groups could be brought into harmonious and concentrated action, much good would result." What *Canadiana* recommends is a new general organization, in which all the societies now existing should be merged, with a permanent paid officer for the collection of dues and the issuing of notices, with one officer for each section, the whole to form a board of directors. Rooms might then be rented and, if the association suited the needs of the community, it would grow in time. Meanwhile, the different societies might try the experiment of having one paid official.

One of the most interesting features of the Paris Exposition of 1889 was the "Pavillon des Forets." It comprised a fairly complete exhibit of the trees of the world, with illustrations of the various uses to which they can be put, and of every detail in the wood-working industries of different countries. Of especial interest was the exhibit of micrographic engravings of the different woods, with indications of the diseases to which they are subject, of the insects that attack them, and of the processes of decay. This exhibit, which is illustrated in M. de Parville's Handbook of the Exposition, recently published by M. Rothschild, of Paris, is of the utmost value from both a scientific and industrial standpoint. To us in Canada, one of whose chief sources of natural riches is our lumber industry, and to whom a new world of forest wealth has been opened up in the far west, the mass of information which these careful experiments reveal is most instructive. The wood-working industries of Canada—though not without importance—are as yet only on the threshold of that development which, by due appreciation and enterprise, they ought one day to attain.

The Glaciers of the Seikirks have been attracting the attention of English men of science. In a work recently published in London, the Rev. Wm. Spotswood Green, F.R.G.S., gives an interesting account of a visit that he paid to that great range in company with the Rev. H. Swanzy. The journey was undertaken on behalf of the Royal Geographical Society, in order to prepare a map of the region.

LORD LORNE ON CANADA.

The interest of the Marquis of Lorne in Canada and her affairs is still as keen as when he ruled at Ottawa. Since his return to England he has found many opportunities of saying a timely word on her behalf, of removing prejudices or supplying needed information. Sir Charles Dilke's last book—"Problems of Greater Britain"—has once more directed his attention to certain questions in which we are deeply concerned. His criticism of the work as a whole is extremely laudatory. He thinks that the author, in conducting a comprehensive survey of Britain beyond sea, engaged in a task for which his natural gifts and political experience admirably fitted him, and that he discharged the task with painstaking conscientiousness. He would, however, prefer "Larger" to "Greater" Britain as a qualifying term for the countries whose condition, people and fortunes are discussed as it is in area alone that they surpass the Mother Country. But probably Sir Charles Dilke had the future in his mind as well as the present, and the Marquis admits that in all likelihood two of her colonies will, before another half century, equal England in population. He notes the difference in tone between the later and the earlier work of the author—especially in treating of the relations between the United States and Australia and the Americans of the Union and their neighbours of British America. As to the latter, it is gratifying to find a recognition of the fact that there is for the newer, as for the older federation, ample scope to work out its destiny on this continent. The Marquis of Lorne deprecates the encouragement by a portion of the United States press of the notion that sooner or later "all Anglo-Saxons in North America will range themselves under the banner of one huge republic." He fails to see how the existence of a state to the north of them can be a menace to the institutions of our neighbours. In practice as in theory, the Government of Canada is the more popular of the two, as a ministry can be deposed when the people, through their representatives, deem a change necessary. From interference at the hands of the Mother Country, Canada enjoys the utmost immunity. The risks that arise out of the connection have been exaggerated, but at the same time it is right that the Dominion should have a well-trained force—not necessarily through dread of attack from the south, but to give play to soldierly tastes and aspirations and to enable Canada to strike a blow (in the hour of trial) for the safety of the great Empire to which she belongs. Referring to the two races that share Canada between them, the Marquis indicates the advantage that the country derives from the attachment of the French Canadians to British institutions and to a system which allows them a proportionate influence on public affairs. What Sir Charles Dilke says of the benefits of confederation Lord Lorne considers well founded. One result of it has been to deepen and expand the national sentiment which becomes stronger and stronger as the ratio of native-born Canadians to the entire population enlarges. When the difficulties of race, religion and the physical conformation of the country are taken into account, the author of "Greater Britain" considers the success of the federal experiment remarkable—quite as much so as that of the Swiss Confederation. The Marquis of Lorne adds that even the abrogation of the reciprocity treaty tended to confirm the feeling of independence, in-

stead of creating, as many expected, a resistless tendency towards annexation. The annexation cry he regards as artificial and mainly kept up by "soreheads" in Canada and the Anglophobe press in the States. The fact that no candidate appeals to a constituency as an annexationist is adduced as evidence of this. On the other hand, Lord Lorne is not disposed to accept the conclusions of those who predict the disruption of the Empire unless Imperial federation be adopted as a counter-agent to centrifugal tendencies. He would rather depend on the *via media* of a gradual and natural development of the Imperial idea by closer intercourse between the leading men of all the colonies with each other and with British statesmen, and on the adoption of common means for defence and for the promotion of industrial and commercial relations. Even as matters are, Lord Lorne believes that there prevails enough of the old spirit of loyalty to protect the Empire, should it be assailed, at any point in the Queen's dominions. "It would," he says, "be a dangerous game to 'twist the old lion's tail' too severely." In closing he congratulates Sir Charles Dilke on being, not only a skilful writer, but a faithful patriot—with as fine a pride in the great future of the mighty British commonwealth as the strongest Tory squire could cherish—and on being a federationist in the best sense—that of inculcating on his English compatriots the duty of learning the desires and aspirations of their fellow citizens over sea and bidding them "take occasion by the hand to make the bounds of freedom wider yet."

PAUL PEEL'S TRIUMPH.

Mr. John R. Peel, the well-known marble dealer of London, Ont., received a cable message on 4th June from his son Paul, now a resident of Paris, where he has been located for several years, informing him that the gold medal of the Paris Salon had been awarded him for his painting entitled "Après le Bain." Of course the parents of the talented artist were overjoyed at receiving such a welcome missive, and the news was spread amongst the friends and admirers of the young man with rapidity only exceeded by the heartiness of its reception. Congratulations poured in upon the relatives from all directions, and it is not wide of the mark to assert that the success of the young artist in his chosen avocation was viewed as a national triumph quite as much as a proud achievement by a Londoner—to the manner born. It is the first time in the history of the French Salon that the gold medal has been awarded to a native of the North American continent, and it must be especially gratifying to Canadians generally to know that one from the "Land of the Maple Leaf" has shown by merit, unaided by sinister influences, that he is worthy of the distinction accorded him by the leading judges of art in the world. Three paintings, out of some 10,000, as has been recently stated in these columns, were singled out for the gold medal, one of which was from Mr. Peel's easel, bearing the title mentioned above. The criticisms of the French masters and press generally were almost unreservedly favourable to the canvas of Mr. Peel, and that of itself is no small tribute to be the recipient of. All will join heartily in congratulating the family on the high honour bestowed upon one of their number; the wish of all will be that Mr. Paul Peel may continue to demonstrate to the world at large that Canadians can hold their own, even in art, with old-world connoisseurs.

The gold medallist was born in London, Ont. on the 7th of November, 1860, and is consequently in his thirtieth year. He attended the public schools, and was an apt learner in the various branches of study, more particularly those which tended to develop the love of art, for which he always had a strong regard. In 1879 he attended the Philadelphia Art Academy, and was shortly afterwards appointed Demonstrator of Anatomy there, a position which he held for two years to the entire satisfaction of the faculty and staff. While in the institution named he was under the guidance of Drs. Atkins and Kane, both of whom were at the head of their profession. On leaving the college he was given letters of introduction to Sir Philip Owen, of South Kensington, England, where he was taken cordially by the hand and assisted in every possible way to prove himself worthy of his sire and country. After doing England, he was recommended to place himself under the tuition of Leon Jerome, the great painter of Paris, and the advice was accepted, since which time he has been a student of many of the leading artists of Paris, his last master being M. Constant, the world renowned painter.—*London Free Press.*