

PEOPLE, PLACES AND PROGRESS

MECHANICAL and naval engineers in St. John, the winter port of Canada, are now in great demand by the Government of Japan. This is a new phase of the race problem. Having a small opinion of the United States marine engineers, the Mikado prefers to recruit from Canada. Further, he seems to argue that as he has been very busy sending industrious Japs to British Columbia, Canada should retaliate by letting him have ingenious Canucks from St. John. At any rate, a number of expert engineers have been engaged to help in the construction of the new Japanese battleships and to lay out fortifications. Among them is Mr. B. H. Francis, who superintended the installation of the Chignecto power plant at Amherst, N.S. Another engineer was offered a large salary to install turbines in warships being built at Kobe. Even the students at the University of New Brunswick have been offered positions by mail. Rosy salaries are being paid to all engineers who accept work with the Mikado.

DENMAN THOMPSON, the celebrated originator of "Joshua Whitcomb" in "The Old Homestead," learned the most he knows about acting in



Mr. Denman Thompson in the role of "Grandpapa."

Toronto. It was away back in the fifties that young Thompson came up from Worcester, Mass., where he had been on the boards a short while after leaving his uncle's dry goods store in Lowell. At the old Royal Lyceum on King Street he remained fourteen years with the stock company in which Mrs. Morrison, still living in Toronto, was a leading actress. In those days the young actor, who was just learning the business on a small salary, got largely into debt because he was one of the glad-handed sort who sowed money broadcast. Being forced into the credit system, Thompson soon got over his ears in debt, and much against his will he had to leave town with a large number of creditors mourning his absence to the tune of \$3,000. However, years afterwards when Thompson had become celebrated as "Joshua Whitcomb" he brought "The Old Homestead" to Toronto and paid that three thousand dollars—every dollar of it outlawed long before. Mr. Thompson is the oldest actor in America and, as may be noted from the illustration, is a grandfather.

THE Sikhs in Victoria have refused charity offered them by the city authorities. They are said to be altogether different to Hindus, who make a gentlemanly business of begging. There are over a hundred of these tall, bearded independents in the British Columbia capital. Most of them come from Lahore, in the Province of Punjab. They have been working in the saw-mills, but as the mills have shut down they are all out of work. They have plenty of money saved, however, held in a sort of common stock, to tide themselves over the present depression.

BRITISH COLUMBIA hopes to supply pulp-wood to Japan, where large quantities of paper are now being used up in the advance of civilisation—some of it in making agreements with foreign powers. Most of Japan's pulp comes from Scandinavia, which country is also a competitor with Canada in supplying pulp to the Japs of Europe. In the case of England, however, the Scandinavians have everything in their favour, including distance and freight charges. In shipping to Japan the advantages in delivery are all with Canada, inasmuch

as it takes ninety days from the time the order is mailed from Japan to get the pulp shipments back through the Suez Canal. The Norwegian freight charges for more than twice the distance, however, are only \$7.30 a ton from Christiana to Yokohama. In ten years, 1897-1906, the Japanese extended their paper-making business from 63,787 yen to 1,764,002 yen. Imports of European paper in 1905 amounted to 6,380,000 yen.

FIFTY years ago, according to the New York "World," the father of John D. Rockefeller came to Ontario and married a Canadian girl named Margaret Allen. At that time and for thirty-six years afterwards the mother of the famous Standard Oil magnate was living in the United States. After his marriage to Miss Allen, Mr. Rockefeller became Dr. William Levingston. Under this name he farmed and made a patent medicine in North Dakota. Mrs. Levingston is still living in Illinois—until two years ago totally ignorant that her aged husband was the father of the richest man in the world. Neither did Mrs. Rockefeller dream that her husband, who left her with five children in 1885, had married a Canadian girl of twenty. The strange part of the romance is that Mrs. Rockefeller's three sons knew of the second marriage but kept it secret from her. These sons kept Mr. Rockefeller supplied with money until his death in Freeport, Illinois, in 1906.

A FEW days ago there was burned in Montreal one of the oldest and most historic business buildings in Canada. This was the old Molson warehouse, built in 1772 by Mr. John Molson. In those days the building was used as a brewery, afterwards as a sugar refinery; lately as a warehouse. The second steamboat in American waters, the "Accommodation," was built by Mr. Molson.

FROM Vancouver to Peace River by way of the coast is the latest mail route established in Canada. Last week two couriers, Messrs. H. E. Bodine and Frank Watson, two old-time trail-finders, set out by steamer to Kitaamat. There the dog-teams will be hitched for the ice trip to Hazelton—Babine Lake—to Fort Conley on Conley Lake—across to the Ingineeka River, thence to the Findlay and down the Findlay to Fort Graham; five hundred miles with five hundred pounds of mail matter behind two teams of dogs.

IN the race for building expenditure in 1907, Toronto beat at least seven United States cities with a larger population and was beaten by but seven others, all of which had a much larger population. Buffalo, Cincinnati, Minneapolis, and Milwaukee were among those left behind by the Capital of Ontario. Detroit with a hundred thousand more people was ahead of Toronto only a thousand dollars worth. Buffalo with about a hundred thousand more fell behind six millions. Pittsburg with more than twice as many people as Toronto was distanced by more than a million and a half. The Capital of the United States was left in the rear by more than four millions.

NOW—following the nationalising of the Plains of Abraham—there is talk of restoring Fort Malden as a national park. This is the ancient part of modern Amherstburg. Almost in front of the tumble-down, neglected old fort is the Lime-Kiln Crossing which holds the record for shipping tonnage among all the straits and canals in the world, not excepting the Suez and the "Soo." But the old fort which did duty in the border war of 1812 has more to do with the past than with progress. After the War of Independence Fort Malden was built among a settlement of U. E. Loyalists who had particular reasons for wanting to keep that part of the waterways under the British flag. Old Colonel Elliott, a Virginia planter, whose first house is shown on this page, was one of the first settlers. In 1796 the Union Jack was removed from Detroit and planted on Fort Malden, which though a rude sort of place built of logs and stone had a strategic position near the mouth of the Detroit River. Here in 1812 General Hull crossed the river from Detroit and attacked Fort Malden. Here Brock built his ships. Here Tecumseh made a bark map of the Detroit citadel for Proctor. Here Harrison afterwards defeated Proctor allied with Tecumseh, burned the fort and drove the allies up the valley of the Thames where Tecumseh met his death. The Americans held the fort for two years. In 1815 they gave it up—along with nearly

everything else along the border. A few years afterwards the fort was rebuilt. In the Rebellion of 1837 it again became important; the centre of many a lively fight between the Canadians and the American sympathizers with Mackenzie. Now for years the old place, once the liveliest fighting-spot on the whole frontier, has gone over to the spiders and the bats. The patriotic inhabitants who know its history are anxious to have it preserved as a national park—and in all middle Canada there is no place better worthy the enterprise.

LUMBER prices have gone down in Victoria, British Columbia; rough lumber three dollars a thousand, clear two dollars, and shingles seventy-five cents. Nine-tenths of the mills in the province are said to be closed; immense stocks are on hand—about three hundred million feet. The reduction is somewhat due to the expectation that the spring may see United States lumber crossing the border.

THE cheapest effective police force in the world is the Northwest Mounted Police, whose territory extends from Herschell Island to Kenora—the largest police area in the world. This entire field is covered by less than seven hundred men and 520 horses. The force last year was smaller than in 1907 by 45 men and 49 horses. In 1900 there were 135 more men in the force than there are now with 55 new posts to cover. The population over which these men have jurisdiction is nearly three times what it was in 1901. The area covered by the police detachments is twice as great as it was in 1897. In that year, it will be remembered, a large number of men were sent to the Yukon, the nucleus of the 200 men now required to police that enormous and thinly-peopled area. An ex-policeman living in Edmonton claims that it was the police who first brought the Klondike to the notice of the outside world by the gold which the first detachment brought out. The rush to the gold fields made it necessary to send nearly one-third of the entire force to the Yukon. Since then detachments have been posted at various trading posts in Athabasca. Men have been taken wholesale from Regina, the headquarters; from Battleford, where the police did hard work in the Rebellion of 1885; from Fort Saskatchewan, headquarters for the Edmonton district; from Prince Albert, divisional headquarters, six hundred miles east by the river; and from Fort Macleod, which was the first post of the police in 1872. The work of the police in the old days was rounding up horse-thieves, whisky smugglers, and Indian murderers. Now it is almost everything else; the chief relic of the old days being the horse-thief, which in that country is a hard variety to exterminate. Many of the mounted police are now posted singly in the new towns where they do local as well as patrol work. Police life even at the outposts is tame compared to the old way, as may be inferred from the following verse of a poem written by a member of the force in those days:

"We've taken the haughty feathered chief
Whose hands were red with blood;
E'en in the very Council Lodge
We seized him where he stood.
Three fearless hearts faced forty braves,
And bore the chief in chains
Full sixty miles to where lay camped
The Riders of the Plains."



A Guardian of the Plains.