

has kept a large force of soldiers at bay while the brigands committed outrages over a large section of southern Italy. Meanwhile we hope that the terms proposed to the Boer leaders will be such as to induce them to abandon a struggle which is now so hopeless as to be nothing more than organized murder.

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The members of the Insurance Institute of Montreal visited the works of the Lachine Rapids Hydraulic and Land Company where they had the pleasure and privilege of having the operations conducted there explained by Mr. Walbank. The works are devoted to the conversion of the latent force in the Rapids into electricity which is supplied to Montreal and district for light and power. The plant and structural works are on a very extensive scale and the operations by which the powers of Nature are made subservient to the convenience of man are intensely interesting as an exhibit of the triumph of mind over matter. The whole enterprise is also a tribute to the enterprise of the promoters and stockholders who provided sufficient capital to establish these works out of their own resources. Electricity is only in its initial stage, its utilities are developing daily, and of its possibilities scientists speak in terms that sound like a romantic dream. As we are going to press while the members of the Insurance Institute are at the Lachine Rapids we are unable to give a report of their visit and of the proceedings at the entertainment given them by the directors of the Company.

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By the death of Mr. Cecil Rhodes the British Empire loses a man of Imperial ideas and Imperial strength of will. He made mistakes, for he was human, as were his instruments and his associations. What Clive did for India by force of arms Rhodes was doing for Africa by force of administrative genius, though he, too, showed at Kimberly and elsewhere military talent of a high order. He belonged to the class of which Raleigh and Bismark were examples. Out of such materials empires are built and maintained.

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Speaking in his place in the House of Commons, Mr. Kemp M.P., of Toronto, said on 25th inst :

" This was a land of great natural resources awaiting development, and yet Canada found herself, with reference to the United States, in much the same position as the congested countries of the Old World, whose populations were coming to this continent in large numbers. He thought the time had arrived when steps should be taken to keep our young men at home. This could be done by the development of a policy adapted to all the requirements of the

country. To bring about such a desirable object required the energies of the leading public men of Canada, but he did not despair of Parliament achieving some substantial results."

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The retention of Canadian "young men at home" would be promoted by a vigorous, broad, far-sighted policy designed to promote settlement upon our fertile but uncultivated lands. Agricultural development would enlarge manufacturing production, and, as manufactures increased, the demand for young men of varied talents would be enlarged, so that opportunities for employment and of enterprise would keep our "young men at home."

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The harbour and river in front of the city are nearly clear of ice, more so than at this date for many years. Navigation is expected by some to be open earlier than in any year on record, but it is still too early for a conclusive judgment.

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The contractors for the new building of the Board of Trade deserve praise for the very rapid progress they have made in clearing away the ruins and debris. Although this enormous mass of stone, brick wood and iron is not all cleared away, the work of re-building has commenced. If equal energy and organizing ability were shown in the work of the city it would be done in half the time at a proportionate saving in cost.

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A trade organization that wished to deal in life assurance on the "bargain counter" method has been very properly refused permission to engage in this form of enterprise.

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When going to press news arrived of the sudden death of Ex-Alderman Hart, when on his way from Colorado. Mr. Hart while in the Council did good service to the city, which, by his untimely demise, loses a valuable citizen whose removal will be widely regretted.

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In order to soften the landlord difficulty the Home Government has introduced a Bill which enlarges the facilities for buying land in Ireland. The tenant farmers there, it is hoped, will become proprietors on a large scale. The law relating to the purchase and transfer of land in England, Wales and Scotland are so complicated and so oppressive to buyers, that it is probable the same facilities enjoyed in Ireland will be demanded for other parts of the United Kingdom. Equal privileges for all in the British Isles seems only fair; it would make a good political cry.