

Northwest Review

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1905.

Calendar for Next Week.

- 13—Ninth Sunday after Pentecost.
The Separation of the Apostles.
Commemoration of Saints Hippolytus and Cassian, Martyrs.
- 14—Monday—Vigil. Our Lady, Refuge of Sinners.
- 15—Tuesday—The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- 16—Wednesday—St. Roch, Confessor.
- 17—Thursday—Octave of St. Lawrence.
- 18—Friday—St. Hyacinth, Confessor (transferred from the 16th inst.)
- 19—Saturday—Of the octave of the Assumption. Fast day on account of the Solemnity of the Assumption to-morrow.

SLANDERING MANITOBA

"The Sunday Times," of Sydney, New South Wales, for July 9, has the following:

If many returned Canadians get writing to Home papers after the style of the attached letter, taken from the "Weekly Scotsman," of May 13, some of the tide of emigration to Canada will be turned this way—that is, of course, supposing our legislators agree to hold out inducement:—

There seems a public desire to get facts about Canada from people who have resided there; and as a former resident in Manitoba, I will mention a few points that should be well weighed before people decide to go there.

The talk that you do not feel the cold in Canada is simply nonsense; but it may be that many feel the poverty at home more. In Manitoba for four months the thermometer is always below zero. As the sun is always shining, and there is very rarely even a breath of wind, this is not felt, particularly during the day. In the early morning or the evening this extreme cold is most painful, and one hour's exposure to this cold in December and January will freeze any exposed parts, such as the tips of the ears, or the fingers, or the toes.

Every one wears two pairs of woolen under garments, and often two pairs of trousers and vests, if much outside. A good fresh breeze is full of health, making the blood circulate, but there is seldom even a zephyr in the north-west. This intense cold is favorable neither to animal nor human life. No trout disport themselves in the rivers and lakes of Manitoba; nothing but some tasteless white fish, that no North-Western shopkeeper would offer for sale. In

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winter all the meat and milk is sold frozen solid.

Then, owing to double windows, the houses are unhealthy, and any single person in a furnished room (and they abound) has to face the fact that his bedroom temperature will average 20 deg. below zero for several months. This means that an unhealthy load of blankets has to be put over a person. Then, before one can wash in the morning, it takes an axe to break the ice on the barrel, and then it needs to be warmed. I do not think it right to gloss all this over. Of course, if there is a family to fight this Arctic difficulty, things are tolerable enough.

Another very serious thing is the climatic scourge. This is sometimes called Red River fever. It is a sort of typhoid fever. Most emigrants are attacked by it, and it grips like a grizzly bear. I was away from my work two months owing to it, and for a month I was quite prostrated. If people get through the first two years, however, they are generally safe enough.

Another thing that most Scotsmen are concerned about is the large Catholic element in the population, and the immense power of Catholic wire-pullers in the whole of the national, municipal life of Canada. Is there any serious hitch to New Zealand emigration that is glossed over like the cold and foreign element in Canada?

As the writer of this letter has a vigorous imagination, all we have to do in rebuttal is to pin him down to facts. In the first place it is not true that "in Manitoba for four months the thermometer is always below zero." The four coldest months are from the middle of November to the middle of March. Now, during last February there were only eight days in which the thermometer did not rise above zero, and from the 18th of February till the 11th of March the mercury did not once drop below zero, and on eight of these 21 days it rose above the freezing-point, reaching the maximum of 51 deg. on the 2nd of March. From the 1st of January to the 14th of March, 1902, there were no less than 46 days in which the thermometer rose above zero, and 21 of these days witnessed a thaw.

"Everyone wears two pairs of woolen under garments, and often two pairs of trousers and vests if much outside." We have heard of that sort of thing in Russia, but seldom in Manitoba, except when one has to remain motionless in a long drive in the open air when the cold is very great.

The idea of any "bedroom temperature averaging 20 deg. below zero for several months" is too preposterous to need refutation. Did this writer never hear of stoves or furnaces? Even when there is no stove or heating pipe

in the bedroom, but only in the passage, if the house is at all well built, the water in one's jug or basin seldom freezes. Compare that with an average of 20 below zero for several months. Great, indeed, is that writer's imagination. This faculty of his, however, reaches its highest development when he says the axe has to be warmed before it will "break the ice on the barrel." Perhaps, he meant the water, but his grammar applies to the axe.

As to the Red River fever, of course, there is sickness here, but this particular kind of fever does not attack the vast majority of our population, and the farmers of Manitoba, are, as a rule, singularly healthy. The intense cold, which is rarely unbroken for more than a week at a time, is not injurious to health, when proper precautions are taken.

True, we have no trout nor salmon, but we fancy our friend's "North-Western shopkeeper" would be very glad to get our excellent white fish.

We admit that some of our country folk, having a horror of fresh air in the house in winter, make their double windows or storm sashes air-tight; but storm sashes with large ventilators are easy to find.

The Scotsman's correspondent is evidently a bigot, and therefore, we regret to say, exaggerates the size of the Catholic element "and the immense power of Catholic wire-pullers in the whole of the national, municipal life of Canada." In stigmatizing the Catholics as foreigners, he ignores the fact that Catholics were the first white settlers in Canada. As he refers especially to Manitoba, we commend that paragraph of his to Mrs. Sanford, who excuses herself for not engaging Catholic servant girls because, forsooth, there are so few Catholics in Manitoba.

Curiously enough, this disgruntled Balaam, who intended to curse, ends by blessing us even beyond our deserts. He says, for instance, that "the sun is always shining" when in reality it sometimes fails to shine for a day or two at a time; that "there is very rarely even a breath of wind . . . there is seldom even a zephyr in the northwest," when in reality the windmills all over Manitoba, are seldom at rest, and, if anything, we have too much wind. But perhaps the most amusing, because evidently unconscious, example of his propensity to extreme assertions is the oracular tone in which he avers that "one hour's exposure to extreme cold will freeze any exposed part, such as the tips of the ears, or the fingers, or the toes." Think of one hour's exposure of these delicate extremities to a cold of 40 degrees below zero, such as we generally have at least for part of one night each winter. Why, ten minutes exposure would freeze them hard. But then, no Manitoban dreams of exposing his ear-tips, or his fingers,

or still less his toes in such weather. We all have fur caps or at least ear-flaps, mitts and warm socks and foot-gear, especially felt boots which defy any cold.

Our Australian contemporary follows up the above quoted letter with an article headed "Too many Kickers," which we reproduce entire, because of its just tribute to our patriotism, which condones, with pitying indulgence the Australian editor's preference for his own country.

"Kickers" is the name given by Canadians to that large class of travelling Australians who run down their own country, so Mr. Walter Preedy, of the Statistical Department informs the Premier. Canada has no "kickers." "Go where you will in Canada, everyone—Press, city folk and farmers—are all intensely patriotic. They have their troubles, but they bury them, and you have to dig them out to find them. Professor Hodgson, commenting on this fine spirit, told me that it is a Gospel with all the people that Canada is the best country in the world, everyone's own province is the best, and everyone's own farm is the finest in the province."

That is the kind of gospel we want in Australia, where we have a finer soil, a better climate, a grander country in every way, but—far too many discontented, disloyal "kickers," paralysing the industry and injuring the prospects of their fellow Australians.

THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF LEO XIII.

At the Papal Requiem for the second anniversary of the death of the late Holy Father, the Pope was attended and served at the throne and in giving the Absolutions by Cardinals Agliardi, Macchi and Segna. The Mass was sung by Cardinal Vincenzo Vannutelli, Bishop of Palestrina, Commendatory of San Silvestro in Capite, and Prefect of the Council. The tomb of the late Pontiff will occupy the arch in the Lateran Basilica corresponding to that where is the tomb erected by him for Innocent III., in 1891. It will have a granite base with the Papal arms and festoons in bronze. An urn of 'verde antico' (old green marble), decorated in bronze and flanked by statues in white marble will hold the remains. The statue on the left will be a figure of the Church draped in mourning, with its right arm outstretched and the hand holding a laurel wreath upon the urn; the figure on the other side will be a pilgrim working man, leaning on an instrument of labour, and receiving from the figure of the Pontiff, above the urn, a rosary. The inscription will be "Leoni XIII. Cardinales ab eo creati." (To Leo XIII. from the Cardinals created by him.) Under the pilgrim will be the words "Populi peregrinantur ad eum." (The nations go in pilgrimage to his tomb.) The statue of the Pontiff is to be in bronze, resting on a base of yellow marble.

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There are some lines which are not mentioned.

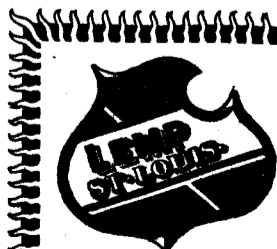
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