

What the World is Saying

Canada Contrasted with Australia

It is remarkable that the exodus from this country last year was the largest for twenty years. In all, 194,000 people left the shores of the United Kingdom to settle in other countries. Canada, whose attractiveness has developed so remarkably of late years, claimed the majority of the emigrants, 91,263 going thither against 85,941 to the United States. Compared with this enormous volume of emigration, the fact that only 9,920 went to Australia and New Zealand is significant. Distance may operate to some extent, but distance alone is not enough to account for this remarkable contrast. The fact is that while Canada pulses with life and energy and is filled with youthful enthusiasm about its future and its possibilities, Australia gives the impression of a country which has grown effete without ever having had a vigorous prime. It makes no appeal to the imagination. It has ceased to increase and multiply itself, and it wants no increase from the external world. Its attitude is cold and exclusive. Its population is only a thin fringe to a vast continent, but it would rather remain so than increase itself or run the risk of ultimate crowding from over the seas. It is not a pleasant picture. It is the picture of a people grown too suddenly comfortable, immersed too much in material satisfaction, wholly indifferent to that richer life which is the basic note of great and enduring States. It has produced no voice, no literature, no art. It is a dumb and uninspired people, faced with one of the supreme problems of the Twentieth Century—the effective occupation of a great continent with a population small and stationary. Australia is a country without a past; at present it seems to be also a country without a future. Hence while nearly two hundred thousand people are leaving these shores for the North American continent, less than ten thousand go to Australasia.—Manchester Guardian.

To Delay the Approach of Old Age

Mrs. Russell Sage's endowment of a research laboratory in connection with the City Hospital, on Blackwell's Island, is a distinct novelty in the line of philanthropy. Unlike the Rockefeller Institute for medical research it has a twofold purpose. The fund will not only be used indirectly for the amelioration of disease by the research for new medical knowledge, but directly in improving the conditions under which the city's aged poor now live, in two of its largest institutions. Another unique feature of the endowment is the special attention to be given the study of diseases associated with old age. Dr. T. C. Janeway in outlining the plan to Mrs. Sage and Mr. De Forest quoted the statement from a recent speech by Dr. Welch of Johns Hopkins that, while more children grew to adult life now than formerly, the expectation of life for those over forty had been little if at all increased by the great advances of modern medicine. The reason for this was, he thought, that preventive medicine had consisted chiefly of a study of infectious diseases and devoted little attention to work on the degeneration of organs and tissues resulting in old age. Following this suggestion, Mrs. Sage in presenting her generous gift to the city, particularly mentions the latter aspect of the work, and hopes that the fund will be productive of much new knowledge as to the causes and prevention of early senility. While therefore the work done under the fund will be by no means limited to this interesting field, old age will receive particular attention, and possibly a new branch of preventive medicine developed, having for its purpose the prevention or at least postponement of those degenerative changes in bones, arteries, kidneys, heart, and other vital organs and tissues which constitute the process of growing old.—New York Times.

Lo, The Poor Indian

The government still finds it necessary to protect the Indian in every commercial transaction with the pale faces. The despatches from Guthrie state that the United States attorney has just brought mandamus proceedings against a number of speculators who have leased valuable lands from the Oklahoma tribesmen for a song when the land is estimated to be worth hundreds of dollars. It is not difficult to understand why the Oklahoma promoters should heartily approve of removing the restrictions from the Indians' property, and it is even less difficult to predict what will happen to the noble red man when the government leaves him to the tender mercies of the pale face civilization.—Kansas City Times.

The Genius of Kipling

What the people like and go back to and read over again, is what they will not suffer to die, and what is not allowed to die is immortal. In this happy state is Rudyard Kipling, whose works a hundred years from now will be as sure of their place on the shelves of every good library as Scott or Dickens or Thackeray, or George Eliot, or any of the masters of fiction. Kipling has done more to dignify labor than any other writer living. Most of his stories concern themselves with men who work with their brains or their hands, the men who build bridges, dam rivers, lay railways, run engines, manage steamships, and such. In this kind of story, as in the jungle story, Mr. Kipling set the fashion, and he set it so high and so perfect that all the other little fellows can follow only at a great distance. Mr. Kipling's style is the object of much imitation by magazine writers, who have industriously copied his eccentricities, thinking that these were the man. The net result of their efforts must have been to convince them that the Kipling manner is possible only to such as have a Kipling mind.—Toronto Star.

Scaring a Lord Chancellor

The lord chancellor is going to Canada for a holiday, and he will be away for about five weeks. The lord chancellorship is to be placed in commission during Lord Loreburn's absence from England. This is believed to be the first time that a lord chancellor has left Great Britain, as it is forbidden to take the Great Seal out of the country, so if its holder contemplates a sea voyage he must make an elaborate arrangement for its safe custody during his absence. William IV considered that Lord Chancellor Brougham had been guilty of high treason in even conveying the Great Seal to Scotland during the autumn of 1834. At Rothiemurcus, in Inverness-shire, when Brougham was the guest of the Duke and Duchess of Bedford, the ladies of the house amused themselves by stealing the Great Seal, which they hid in a tea-caddy in the drawing-room, and the chancellor, who was frantic with anxiety, was required to discover it blindfolded, guided by the piano, the music rising and sinking according as he was nearer or further away.—London Truth.

Local Option in the States

In 1888 the prohibitionist candidate for President polled 249,907 votes; in 1892 the vote was 264,133; in 1904 it was 258,847. The decline may be due to a growing feeling that no practical gain can result from a mere registration of the views of those who would like to have a prohibitionist in the White House. It is not due to any weakening in temperance sentiment. The Springfield Republican points out that by the working of local option laws half the area of the United States is now under prohibition. Ohio has 1,140 dry towns out of a total of 1,376. Massachusetts has 250 dry out of 350. Vermont is wholly dry except 24 towns and cities. Kentucky, the home of whisky distilling, has 97 dry counties out of 119. Connecticut has 96 dry to 72 wet, or did have prior to the latest town elections. There are 200 dry towns in Illinois, and in Iowa 65 out of 99 counties are without saloons. Maryland has 14 counties dry out of 23. There are 300 dry towns in New York State. Indiana, out of 1,016 townships, has 710 on the arid list. Passing to the Pacific coast one finds four dry counties in California, and "much dry territory in other counties," while Oregon reports 12 dry counties, and 170 dry towns and cities in other counties. In the Southern States prohibition has made such gains as to attract general attention. More people are now living in an atmosphere from which the saloon is outlawed than in any previous period of American history.—Springfield Republican.

Drink and German Railroads.

Doctor Ennis, of the University of Heidelberg, has declared that over 50 per cent. of all accidents occurring on the German railroads are due to the bewilderment of the operatives who have used stimulants, and that, if total abstinence only were employed, the expense of managing the road could be reduced very greatly. Such action is fundamental and far-reaching since, for generations, the German has conscientiously believed that his beer was advantageous to the development and strengthening of both his mental and physical powers.—Missionary Review.

Conditions in the West.

The West has had a hard winter. Weather conditions were unusually severe and with the opening spring came the alarming situation in regard to the coal mining industry. At the beginning of last week, without a regular strike having been declared, four thousand miners had quit work and thousands more were idle as a result. Under the auspices of the Dominion Department of Labor a conference was held between the employers and employees at which it was not found possible to reach an agreement. But afterwards an arrangement was made by which the miners agreed to return to work pending a reference of their dispute to an Investigation Board, consisting of Mr. Eckstein, representing the men, Mr. Parker, representing the operators and Sir William Mulock representing the Government. The failure of the railway companies to grapple with the matter of transportation in the West during the past winter has also been a serious matter and one to which the attention of the Minister of Railways was called by the western Members of Parliament. All these things are drawbacks whose re-occurrence as far as possible must be guarded against. But they cannot check the West. Its future is assured.—Presbyterianian.

The Mystery of the Unrest in India.

The most mysterious question in the whole movement, which puzzles, and to a great extent dismays, the most experienced Anglo-Indians, is why it should have occurred at the present moment. An electric vibration is evidently passing over the peninsula, but its cause is absolutely invisible. The government has done nothing good or bad that should rouse the people to resistance. There have, perhaps, been blunders in the collection of the land tax in the Punjab; but the movement is not confined to the Punjab, and Bengal is under the perpetual settlement. Indeed, one most remarkable feature of the whole movement is the absence of any definite grievance, the removal of which would at once conciliate opinion. That India shared in the mental shock produced throughout Asia by the victories of the Japanese is undoubtedly true, and is acknowledged by every experienced official; but the Japanese are bound to the British government by the strongest of ties—a necessity for assistance if they are attacked by sea in their home waters, and by a combination of powers. The discontent has, in fact, manifested itself like a subterranean force which suddenly shatters cities, yet leaves the citizens powerless to explain or even to understand, the commotion. In 1857 the insurgents in their letters to each other made much of the fact that the British garrison had been reduced to its lowest point; but the garrison in India in 1907 never was so strong. There will be an explanation by and by; but for the present we have only to acknowledge a grave danger, and face it as our countrymen faced it 50 years ago, without fear, without cruelty, and without hesitation as to the rectitude of our decision to continue ruling.—London Spectator.

Unpunished Murders in the States.

In the twelve years that I have known the United States at all intimately, I only recollect one instance in which the criminal law worked with anything approaching the English standard of swiftness and precision. That was in the case of the man who shot President McKinley. Public opinion insisted on a speedy trial and a speedy execution, and public opinion had its way. Had the victim been a man of less prominence, the odds would have been over 70 to 1 against his assassin ever being brought to the chair. The odds I have quoted are not to be taken as a mere figure of speech. They are a literal and appalling fact. Since 1885 there have been 131,951 murders and homicides in the United States, and but 2286 executions. In 1885 the number of murders was 1808; in 1904 it had risen to 8482. In 1885 the number of executions was 108; in 1904 it was 116. There was nothing that I am aware of to make 1904 a year of peculiar criminality. Indeed, the figures for 1905 and 1906 tell an even more sinister tale—Americans seem now to be killing one another at the rate of more than 9000 a year. Looking over the statistics of the last 20 years, one finds, roughly speaking, that while executions have remained virtually stationary, murders and homicides have multiplied fivefold. There are over five times as many murders committed in the United States per million inhabitants as in Australia, more than 14 times as many as in England and Wales, 8 times as many as in Japan, nearly 10 times as many as in Canada, and about 25 times as many as in Germany. Only one European country, Italy, has even shown in this respect a worse record; only one country in the world today, Mexico, exceeds the American average; and the United States has the further distinction of being the only country where the proportion of murders to population is positively on the increase.—Anglo-American in the London Daily Mail.



A notable figure during the past year who is a leading exponent of the young Republic, an extract from Frankfurter Zeit.

RETROSPECT AND OUTLOOK

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THE AUSTRIAN SUCCESSORS

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