

Senator Perpuris, of Kansas, has petitioned Congress that the spelling of the English language shall be revised. His idea is not at all a novel one, but the proposed Congressional interference is decidedly an innovation. Our language is not a simple one, but it is ours, and is not to be taken from us without our consent. We are dependent to a great extent on American literature, and any blow struck at our common language would quickly affect us. The Senator's proposition savors of the crude West, and it is not likely to meet with much serious consideration.

The Rabbis of the Jewish Synagogues in America, during their recent conference, have shown that they are fully up to the times in their church sentiments. The reformed Jews have now agreed to accept cremation as an orthodox form of burial, and the Rabbis are instructed to officiate at such ceremonies. Stronger still, this most conservative people in the world have agreed that women shall share equally with men in all matters connected with the Synagogues and it is also proposed to give the Jewesses a much higher position in the Synagogues than has hitherto been awarded them.

The demoralizing effect of the Homestead trouble has been felt in far-off Florida. A negro accused of murder, who was confined in the Duval County gaol, was not without good reason in constant terror of being lynched. This becoming known to his fellow-Africans, 1000 of them assembled, fully armed, and took up a position near the gaol. In order to maintain order in the district, it has been thought necessary to call out seven companies of Infantry, a galling gun and two brass field pieces. The negroes are now gradually dispersing, and the safety of the prisoner is assured by military protection.

The young Duke of York has wisely decided that the memory of his brother shall be kept alive in the world by means of a benevolent agency. The charity which he proposes to found is to be known as the Albert Edward Sailors' Rest. This Institution is to be connected with the British and Foreign Sailors' Society, of which there are already branches in many countries. The money for the undertaking is to be contributed—much of it from English sources—but it is hoped that contributions will come from many who are interested in the work. Our Canadian Commissioner, Sir Charles Tupper, will forward any contributions which are sent to him in London.

The promoters of the eleven year old Society of Christian Endeavor are to be congratulated upon the great growth of that order, and upon the good work which the various Branch Societies are steadily carrying on. At the recent Christian Endeavor Congress held in New York, no fewer than 30 000 delegates were assembled. The 22 500 Societies have now enrolled one and one-half million of members. In Canada there are 13 777 Societies. The young people in Nova Scotia in particular seem to have taken up the movement enthusiastically. Active Societies are to be found in almost all our towns and villages, where much unobtrusive good work is done. The well-chosen name of Christian Endeavor describes exactly the object of the whole Society.

Though the great World's Exhibition has not been formally opened, thousands of sight-seers have already inspected the grounds and the buildings by paying the admittance fee of twenty five cents. Many varieties of locomotive power are to be seen, one of the most ingenious being the rejected "moving platforms." Since it has been decided that this innovation is not to be introduced inside the Exhibition grounds, the projectors have obtained the right to lay an oval track outside the enclosure. On the track stand a series of very low, flat cars. The weary pedestrian steps on one and is immediately carried by electric force around the grounds. The platforms vary as to speed, some travelling at the rate of three miles an hour, while the fastest one covers nine miles in the same time.

Halifax is well equipped with city hotels and with first-class boarding houses, probably as well equipped as any city of its size in the Dominion, but a modern summer hotel has become a necessity; and if our people are to reap the full advantages of the tourist travel, our citizens must be up and doing, otherwise some enterprising town in the Province will erect a suitable hotel and thus cut out the capital. Many capitalists fear that a summer hotel would not prove a paying investment, but if located upon a convenient site, why should not the hotel be made a winter residence for the families resident upon the shores of the North-West Arm and those who go out to Rockingham and Bedford for the summer months? Surely one of our clever architects can design a structure suited alike for the purposes we have indicated. To our mind the central idea in the plans should be larger or smaller suites of rooms, in which families could live in comparative privacy, having in common reading rooms, dining rooms, etc. The occupation during the winter of a well ordered establishment such as we have outlined is assured beyond question, and one only has to note the daily arrivals by tram and steamer to convince him that the travelling public would appreciate a good summer hotel. Judging by the amount of money upon deposit in our banks there is no lack of capital in Halifax, and if this summer hotel idea were taken up by a few of the right men the necessary amount of stock would be subscribed within a week and next year the hotel would be ready for occupation. "Everybody's business is nobody's business," but surely we have a few citizens who are patriotic enough to devote a little time to this undertaking, in order that our people as a whole may benefit by their energy and enterprise.

The cry for improvement in the roads came first from the bicyclists of the United States. For the past year the press have been very urgent upon the subject, and now Senator Manderson has brought the measure fully before Congress. He proposes that a National Highway Commission shall be established, and that under its supervision the roads of the nation shall become second to none in the world. Public money is being constantly spent on canals, bridges and railroads, so that it seems only reasonable that a portion of the surplus in the treasury should be applied to so important a work. It is also proposed that a model highway shall be constructed between New York and Washington, passing through the cities of Philadelphia and Baltimore. We wish this ardent friend of road-reform the best of good luck in his undertaking.

The spread of cholera in Asia is largely due to the pilgrimage mania for which the people of the East have been celebrated. Half a million pilgrims meet annually at the sacred city of Hurdwar in India, and any seed of contagious disease is encouraged to rapid growth by means of the heat, the bad water and the Oriental indifference to cleanliness. Mecca, Mesched and Kiev all contain favorite shrines, and all of these cities have suffered severely from cholera six times in the last seventy years. There seems to be no doubt that the crowds of pilgrims are responsible in great measure for the spread of the disease. At present Asia is suffering from the scourge, Europe is threatened, and every effort is being made to discourage trade between the two continents. In our sea-port town we should willingly put up with any inconvenience rather than that any opportunity should be given the disease to appear in our midst.

The holiday season in Nova Scotia during the months of July and August is really one of the busiest times in the year, both in the city and country. Probably this is due to our long winters, during which business is comparatively dull; a time when most of us feel like emulating bruin by sleeping away the hours and sucking our paws for the want of something better to do. There are, however, a fortunate few who have the leisure and means to enjoy the charm of a holiday in the country. To all such we would recommend a visit to Grand Pré and the valley of the Gaspereau. A drive through Grand Pré upon a bright summer's day is a genuine treat to the senses. The beautiful stretch of the highly cultivated prairie land, the picturesque valley, the wonderful ebbing river and the glorious roll of mountain land which closely borders it on either side, are scenes which delight the eye and fill the mind with thoughts of those poor Acadians who once called this land their home. There near the mouth of the river is the point where Evangeline and her fellow villagers sadly embarked; here on that gently sloping hill was the home she had left. A little further on tood the forge of Basil, and there is the fort of Minas, near to which fell Colonel Noble and many of his brave men. A short drive up the ridge or up the side of Horton Mountain will give an opportunity to see one of the most picturesque land and water scenes in all Acadia. By all means go and see it, for its beauties are unrivalled, and it has an added charm in its weird, strange history.

Many eminent geographers differ as to the island upon which Columbus first landed upon October 12, 1492. San Salvador or Cat Island, one of the Bahamas, has been generally accepted as his first landing place, but some authorities believe that a landing was first effected upon Grand Turk Island. The following abridged extract from the log book of Columbus is so explicit that no one can reasonably believe that it applies to either San Salvador or Grand Turk Island, as they do not in any way conform to the description of the navigator. Under date of October 11th Columbus' journal says:—"Two hours after midnight the land appeared about two leagues off. They lowered all the sails, leaving only a storm square sail, which is the mainsail without bounets, and lay to until Friday, (Oct. 12) when they reached a small island called *Guanahaire* by the natives." This island he called San Salvador, and he described it as "very large and very level, and has very green trees and abundance of water and a very large lagoon in the middle, without any mountain, and all is covered with verdure most pleasing to the eye." Subsequently he refers to a "reef of rocks which entirely surrounds that island, although there is within it depth enough and ample harbor for all the vessels of christendom, but the entrance is very narrow." It is conceded that Columbus first saw one of the Bahama Islands, that he anchored consecutively at four others, and that from the last one he went to Cuba. The *Chicago Herald* undertook the solution of this question, and two correspondents of that paper were sent to the Bahamas to make the fullest investigation. After visiting several of the islands and rejecting them as not answering the description of Columbus, they went to Watling Island, which, beyond all doubt, is the first land touched at by Columbus four centuries since. According to the *Herald* expedition, they found Watling Island to conform to the historical evidences, and geometrically to be unerringly the first landfall. The conditions required by any theory of the first voyage are those indicated by Columbus himself. These are that the island first touched, which he named San Salvador, must have such features as a north and south coast, surrounding reefs, a large lagoon in its middle, a headland nearly cut from the mainland by the action of the sea, and a spacious harbor near by with a narrow entrance. The *Herald* says:—"Watling Island is the *Guanahaire* of the natives, the San Salvador of Columbus, the scene of the most momentous event in history, because it is the only island which in itself agrees with the discoverer's description, and because it is the only island from which the log can be followed to the five other islands visited by him."

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