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AUSTRALIA'S WEALTH.

Although two-thirds of the Australian continent, as it is to-day, is a desert, yet her productiveness and possibilities of development are enormous. Her 4,000,000 inhabitants are scattered over an area of 2,973,000 square miles. Of this number, only 200,000 are aborigines, and these not because of hostility on the part of the settlers, but because of inherent degeneracy, are steadily declining. There are 4,000 Chinese and half-castes in the country, and restrictive measures have been adopted to prevent the ingress of Asiatic immigrants. The great majority of the colonists are, of course, from England. The national wealth is colossal, having been accumulated by only four million people. They own over one hundred million sheep and about thirty-five million head of cattle and horses. They have produced over \$2,000,000,000 in gold, copper, tin and coal, two provinces alone contributing \$500,000,000 in gold. They send annually to England over \$200,000,000 worth of metals, grains, wool, beef, tallow, hides and mutton. Australia, with a record of 700,000,000 pounds, furnishes one-fourth of the world's wool, and of such a quality as to make it one-third of the total value. In 1900, exports of mutton, frozen under the cold storage system, amounted to 225,000,000 pounds, while exports of tinned meats totalled last year 45,000,000 pounds. In 1899 Australia led the world in product of gold with an output valued at \$60,000,000. Her silver product is equal to one-ninth of the world's supply. Last year her total mineral output amounted to \$100,000,000 or \$25 per inhabitant. Her shipping has reached the total of 20,000,000 tons. She owns 15,000 miles of railways, a gain of 14,986 in forty-five years. Her average daily mail, in proportion to her population, is the highest in the world, reaching a million items every twenty-four hours. This year her revenue will probably exceed \$150,000,000, which is nearly one-third of England's, while her population is only one-tenth. Australia is, therefore, individually three and a third times richer than the Mother Country. In the savings banks there are \$700,000,000 in deposit. This is \$150 per head, again the highest average in the world.

SOME MISUSED WORDS.

The English language is wonderfully rich in synonyms and in words suited to the expression of various shades of meaning. There are very few thoughts for which the exact word cannot be found in our language. There is no necessity for making words do duty for others simply because some persons are not acquainted with the others, and some are too indolent to seek for them. A fight must be made against this looseness because there are many who are ready and eager to argue that usage justifies almost anything in language. The degradation of the language, one is told, is due to the ascendancy of the newspaper. In the haste of getting out a daily paper many niceties of speech are neglected, and as the largest number of readers of English are the readers of newspapers, looseness in the employment of words is easily spread. It does not take long for the vast body of newspaper readers to establish a wide usage of words in incorrect senses, and this is the usage which is almost in-

variably defended by those to whom usage is a law of style. Just at present the word "develop" is being worked to death in doing duty for other words which are by no means unfamiliar. "The enquiry did not develop any new facts," is one of the common explanations of the time. It would be remarkable if an enquiry could do such a thing. It might disclose or reveal, or bring to light, or discover new facts, but it would not be in its power to develop them. The excellent word "disclose" has by this misuse of "develop" been turned out of doors, while the use of "discover" in its primary meaning, has almost entirely ceased. Poor old "transpire" has again taken to the front as meaning "occur" or "take place," which it has no business to mean at all. A thing, as all scholars know, transpires when it becomes known, when it leaks out. Many things happen without transpiring. One who wishes to say that a thing took place might almost as well say that it "perspired," as to say that it "transpired." These are two examples of that looseness in diction which threatens to give the supposed sanctity of usage to things radically wrong. It is open to sticklers for accuracy in speech to question the authority of usage of this sort. Let us make an appeal to lovers of the splendid English tongue, which is our heritage, to oppose those who misuse it.

HOW HE LOST HIS GRIP.

It is usually all up with an insurance man when he loses his grip. This is the way the Insurance Press tells how a veteran adjuster lost his: After a hard day's wrestle with a complicated merchandise schedule of loss, and with the claimant, his lawyer, bookkeeper, public adjuster and others behind the schedule, he retired to his second-floor room in a quick-burning hotel. Finally, sleeping the sleep of the just, he dreamed the dream of an unjust adjuster. He dreamed that his life had been cancelled at short rate, and that by some mistake he was ordered in spirit to the region where conflagrations are a continuous performance. In his habitual preliminary investigation of the burned district he met the busy chief fire marshal in charge, and in a complimentary-apologetic sort of way said to him: "I have adjusted losses in all the small and great conflagrations of my time and country, but, sir, this beats them all. I concede a total loss, and really, now, I don't know why I was sent here. I should like to leave by the next train." "Deluded immortal," replied His Satanic Majesty, "take notice that he who reaches here leaves returning trains behind. You will, however, be abundantly occupied in adjusting yourself to your environment, but you will have lots of time to do it. Besides, you will meet here many whom you have known as claimants, and it will add to their sense of local justice to meet you and be reminded why"—but the spontaneous-combustive, lurid leer of him of the cloven hoof, and the horrid thought of seeing the old frauds he had known and being reminded of the excessive claim he had paid, awoke him. With a shriek he sprang from his bed to hear other shrieks—for the hotel was on fire. Later, his home office received this slightly-changed-in-transmission, but significant telegram: "Saved from hot el fire, but have lost my grip; 10 collect."

—An outbreak of typhoid in New Haven has been traced to the pollution of the water supply through an overflow from the premises of a family where a case had occurred. In four days one hundred people were stricken down, and it is expected the list will increase. The Knight of Labor motto has it, that the injury of one is the concern of all. The new sanitary knowledge is rapidly showing the illness of one to be the danger of all.

London and Lancashire Life

Head Office for Canada—Company's Bldg., 164 St. James St., Montreal

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