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**The Strathconas.** Colonel Steele, the commander of the Strathconas who have lately returned home from South Africa, speaks in the highest terms of the men of his command and gives unstinted praise to the Canadian soldiers generally who took part in the South African campaign. "We went out," he is quoted as saying, "to do our duty for Canada and the Empire and we are glad to know that no regiments were more thought of than Colonel Otter's, the Canadian Artillery, the Dragons and the Mounted Rifles. There was only one opinion of the Canadians among the British troops, and that is that they were highly efficient and worthy of all respect." The Colonel defends his men from an accusation of cruelty toward the Boers, saying: "Boers were more than once caught crawling up to shoot our sentries in the dark, yet they were only taken prisoners and brought in. I have had considerable experience with men, and am prepared to say that there was no more cruelty displayed by Strathcona's Horse in South Africa than there is to-day among the Northwest Mounted Police, and we all know what that body is like. There is no better body of men living. Strathcona's Horse have done honor to their country. They obeyed orders strictly, and we always had magnificent discipline. They were kind to women and children, so much so that Boer ladies were always anxious for the regiment to camp in their vicinity, for they knew from experience that they would be sure of the kindest treatment. The soldiers of the regular British army also were exemplary in this respect. This war has been conducted on humane lines." The Strathconas, the Colonel said, were the sons of Canadian farmers and gentlemen. "What we did as soldiers on the field and on the march I leave to our Generals to say, but of their good conduct I can speak. Lord Strathcona is proud of his men. In London they were the talk of the clubs. They looked magnificent when paraded before the King. All the officers were presented to him. Lord Strathcona gave the men two banquets in the Empress room of the Royal Palace Hotel, Kensington. Among those present were the Duke of Abercorn, the Marquis of Hertford, Lord Dundonald and many noblemen. Lord Strathcona presided, and most complimentary remarks were made of our regiment. Lord Dundonald, who commanded the Third Mounted Brigade, to which the Strathconas belonged, stated that on the field we took everything seriously, and that our regiment was made up from the crown of the head to the sole of the foot of men. Lord Strathcona spoke of the great pleasure it was to have his name connected with the regiment."

**Ex-President Harrison.** The news of the death of ex-President Harrison has been received in Canada as well as in his own country with sincere regret. On Wednesday of last week General Harrison succumbed to an attack of pneumonia, dying at his home in Indianapolis, surrounded by relatives and friends. Mr. Harrison was the twenty-third President of the United States and the grandson of the ninth President. He was a native of North Bend, Ohio, and was born in August 1833. After graduating at Miami University he studied law and entered upon the practice of his profession in Indianapolis in 1854. His early life was not free from those struggles with poverty which have marked many a successful career in America. During the war he entered the Northern army with the rank of Colonel, and "for ability and manifest energy and gallantry" was promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General of Volunteers. At the close of the war he resumed the practice of his profession, and soon afterwards began to be known as a public man. His ability on the platform became recognized and he was a prominent speaker in Garfield's presidential campaign. He declined a seat in Garfield's Cabinet, but in 1881 took his seat in the United States Senate, having been elected to that body by the Indiana Legislature. In 1884 his name was mentioned in connection with the presidency, and four years later he received the nomination

of his party and was elected. Mr. Harrison was not regarded as by any means the strongest man in his party, and his nomination, as in many other instances, was the result of a compromise. However, as Chief Magistrate, Mr. Harrison commanded respect, both for his personal character and for his executive ability, and proved himself to be a man of an intellectual stature considerably exceeding the popular estimate. Both as president and as ex-president, Mr. Harrison's course has indicated a due sense of the dignity and responsibility of his position and a determination to serve his country to the extent of his ability. In private life, we believe, he has been recognized as an upright and honorable citizen, a God-fearing and actively Christian man.

**The Sun Motor.** The practicability of employing the heat of the sun as a source of power for machinery has been demonstrated, and it is altogether probable that coming years will witness important developments along that line. A solar motor is said to be now in actual use near Los Angeles, California. The heat which the motor gathers is sufficient, in connection with a boiler and the usual appliances of a steam engine, to drive a ten horse power engine from an hour and a half after sun rise until within a half an hour of sunset. The motor is being put to practical use for supplying water for irrigation purposes, and it has been found capable of raising 1400 gallons per minute a lift of twelve feet. With 70 per cent. of sunshine, which is said to represent the average in the arid region, a motor raising 1400 gallons per minute during the hours of sunshine would supply water for the irrigation of 200 acres of alfalfa or 300 acres of oranges. The sun motor is described as being a large and substantial structure, resembling in shape an umbrella open and inverted and so disposed as to catch the sun's rays on the mirrors which line its inside surface and to reflect the heat upon a long, slim boiler which occupies the position of the stick in an umbrella. It will be observed that the heat is not secured by the use of lenses but by reflection from plain mirrors and thus concentrating it upon the boiler. The reflector in this motor is said to measure 33 feet across its diameter at the top and 15 feet at the bottom. It contains 1783 mirrors, 3 1/2 by 24 inches in size. It is worked by machinery, so as to keep always pointed at the sun. The boiler is tubular, 13 feet 6 inches long, with a capacity for 100 gallons of water, and 8 cubic feet additional steam space. It is made of fire box steel covered with lamp-black and other absorptive materials. When with a few turns of a crank the boiler is swung into the concentrated rays of the sun reflected from hundreds of mirrors, its dull surface suddenly assumes the appearance of shining silver, and in about an hour the intense heat has raised the water to a high temperature, and a pressure of 150 pounds is shown on the steam gauge in the engine room. The most obvious advantage of the sun motor is the saving of fuel, and it has the advantage of being, in an arid and comparatively cloudless country, a much more constant force than the wind. With the improvements which experience will suggest in the sun motor it seems likely that it will be used over wide districts where the cost of fuel is excessive.

**Mastodon Remains.** The object of the people who summer and winter in the Yukon country is for the most part practical rather than scientific. They are very much engaged in the search for gold and with very little interest in the study of Paleontology. Yet the latter comes in incidentally at times. The Toronto Globe's correspondent, writing from Dawson, tells of the curious sight, seen in the streets of that town early in February, of a dray laden with huge Mastodon bones, weighing about two tons, which had been brought down from a gulch on Hunkel Creek. The bones were unearthed fifty-five feet below the surface and were found on a placer mining claim, which seems to be the chief repository of such remains in the region, as others have been discovered in similar positions. The present find is unusually complete, including the skull of the animal—which the correspondent alluded to is informed is the only

mastodon skull discovered on the American continent. This information, however, appears to be incorrect, for there were found near Newburg, in the State of New York not many years ago Mastodon remains which included a skull in apparently good preservation. (See the People's Encyclopedia, Art. Mastodon.) Among the bones of the Yukon found four teeth were included weighing about ten pounds each. The two upper teeth were found in place and the two lower ones beside them. One tusk was also found in place and the other lay close beside it. These ivory tusks are curved and smooth, the tips being polished and round. The immense thigh, leg and shoulder bones were found intact and only the vertebrae are wanting to form a fairly complete skeleton of the huge creature. Heads of a species of water buffalo, such as now exist in India, were found with the remains of the mastodon. The discovery of these remains of ancient life indicate the great changes of climate, which, what is now the frozen north, must have experienced since the mastodon and the water buffalo found a home and the means of subsistence there.

**Encouraging Agriculture.** Three acts which must be regarded as of considerable importance to farmers and fruitgrowers have been introduced in the Nova Scotia Legislature by Premier Murray. They are entitled respectively, "An Act to encourage Dairying in Nova Scotia," "An Act to encourage Horticulture," and "An Act respecting the Nova Scotia Herd Book." Owing to the large revenues which the Province is receiving from its coal mines, its finances are in a condition enabling the Government to lend a fostering hand to its industries. The agricultural resources of the country are large and capable no doubt of very important development. Though the Atlantic Provinces of Canada cannot compete with the grain-growing sections of the West in the production of cereals, and though stock cannot be raised so cheaply here as in the western territories yet the expense of transport is an important item to be considered in the matter of stock, and the position of these Provinces on the seaboard gives them important advantages in reaching European markets, and this is especially true in respect to dairy products and fruit. It is generally admitted that no country produces better apples than the fruit-growing sections of Nova Scotia. The more advanced orchardists of the Province have already attained a high degree of excellence in fruit cultivation, and a stage has been reached at which the people will probably respond eagerly to an effort on the part of the Government to promote education on this subject. There are parts of the Province in which, with improved breeds and methods, stock-raising can doubtless be made a highly profitable industry. And in respect to the dairying business, there can be no doubt that with the application of thorough knowledge and the most improved methods, the dairy products of Nova Scotia, or of the Maritime Provinces generally, might take rank with the best in the world. Indeed if we speak only of our best butter and cheese, it is probably that these products are already worthy to take such rank. But it must be admitted that a very large proportion for the product—especially of butter—falls lamentably below the desired standard. It is stated that Premier Murray's measure provides for an unusual appropriation of \$7,000 for the encouraging of dairying in Nova Scotia, of which some \$2,000 will be spent in providing special instruction in connection with schools which it is proposed to start in different parts of the Province with a view to securing a uniform degree of excellence in the dairy products. Provision is also made for assisting such creameries and cheese factories as shall for five years manufacture annually not less than 20,000 pounds of butter or 40,000 pounds of cheese. The Government proposes to promote the fruit-growing industry by the purchase of superior stock of the different varieties of fruit trees and by the establishment of experimental plots in different parts of the country. In establishing these experimental orchards, it is proposed that the Government shall make arrangement with some capable farmer or orchardist, whereby he shall be furnished with the trees and the fertilizers necessary for the orchard. He will prepare the land and give the trees the best care, the agreement to be binding for a period of ten years. Such a plan if well carried out could not but be valuably educative. The Act respecting the Herd Book is designed to place the stock registration of the Province on an equality with that of Ontario.