

The Dominion Illustrated.

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PUBLISHERS' NOTICES.

THE QUEBEC DISASTER!

We have in our engravers' hands two portraits of the late Major Short, so universally lamented, which we will publish in our next issue. We are also engraving several views of Major Short's funeral, both at Quebec and at Kingston, taken specially for the DOMINION ILLUSTRATED. Also, two views of the ruins of St. Sauveur, showing the extent and completeness of the devastation, and a photograph of the crowd of sufferers claiming relief at the Oblat Presbytery.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

We have made arrangements to have as complete a pictorial record as possible of the Montreal celebration, including photographs of the visiting regiments, the review, the camp, etc.; also, of the presentation of colours to the 53rd at Richmond. We will be thankful if both professional and amateur photographers abroad on that festive day will send us prints of the events they secure on their films: sporting events, family picnics, rural scenes. We would like to have pictures from every section of the Queen's Canadian Dominion, to show the hearty, loyal and widespread observance of Her Majesty's birthday.

CANADIAN INDUSTRIES.

We draw special attention to our introductory article on CANADIAN INDUSTRIES in this number. All manufacturers, producers and exporters are specially interested in the series of papers which we intend to publish on this subject, and which will be illustrated in a complete and instructive manner. The first two articles, now being prepared, on the FLOUR PRODUCTION of Canada, with illustrations of Mr. W. W. Ogilvie's mills, and on the CHEESE PRODUCTION of the Dominion, with views of Mr. Macpherson's cheese factories at Lancaster, will contain interesting and authentic statistics of a positively astounding nature on the growth and magnitude of these important industries. We invite manufacturers throughout the Dominion, who are willing to co-operate in this work, to correspond with us on the subject.

SEND US PHOTOGRAPHS.

Now that the season has come for fishing, camping, canoeing, mountain, seaside, and other excursions, the amateur photographer is on the wing, and hundreds of good pictures are taken, showing various phases of our outdoor summer life, which would interest the public, and which we would like to reproduce in the DOMINION ILLUSTRATED. Don't be selfish! Instead of keeping your pretty photographs for the private eye of a few friends, send us a print of each, so that we may engrave and publish the best and most interesting subjects.



In one of Mr. Ernest Ingersoll's very pleasant books on natural history there is a touching picture of a seal and its young, which are almost human in their expression of mutual affection and confidence. To come up behind those creatures thus enjoying the bliss of life in their native domain and to knock them on the heads with a gaff seems a cruel proceeding. Those who have seen it done for the first time are generally shocked at the new revelation of human brutality thus furnished to them. We have heard persons who were not at all sentimental—persons who would cut off a man's leg without winking—express their esthetic disapproval of the murderous proceeding. The seals are so innocent and so happy that it is a pity to disturb them by so rude a surprise. We can quite understand, therefore, that when Lady Blake (wife of the rejected of Queensland) first witnessed this harsh method of making a livelihood she was greatly distressed. She felt it her duty to appeal to the humane public, and she chose the *Nineteenth Century* for her channel of communication. There she makes a serious charge, viz., that the sealers of Newfoundland do not even wait till their prey is dead before divesting it of the skin, and that they then leave the still palpitating body to die slowly in agony. We are glad for the sake of our insular neighbour's good name that Lady Blake was misinformed or that her sympathies deceived her. The Rev. M. Harvey, who has for many years been in constant correspondence with the *Montreal Gazette*, and the author of the article on the "Seal Fisheries" in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* and of a standard work on "Newfoundland," assures the public that no cruelty is committed, that the blow of the skilled hunter despatches the seal immediately, and that if, by mischance, in some rare case, the vital spark might still linger, it would be so feeble as to almost preclude the possibility of consciousness or sensation. A palpitating movement is, indeed, observable in the flesh of seals and other slaughtered animals, even when it is known that life is extinct. Lady Blake's account is very sensational, and it is satisfactory to learn that it is not based on reality.

It would probably be impossible to frame a copyright law that would at once satisfy all publishers and at the same time make the average author feel that justice was done him. Hitherto the publisher's terrestrial paradise has been in the United States. The flooding of the market with cheap books has at last created a distaste for unlimited piracy, and the old-established firms, beaten by default on an arena which they disdained to enter, have appealed to the tribunal of international equity. The author's paradise is a castle in Spain—a stronghold of traditional conservatism which allows him copyright for life and permits his heirs to hold it for eighty years afterward. In Canada authors have not asserted themselves very vigorously as yet. The publishers have, however, been looking after their interests, and have succeeded in evading the sweeping Berne arrangement and securing in its stead a more favorable settlement. By the law, as it now stands, copyright works must be printed and published here within a month of their appearance elsewhere. Otherwise, the Minister of Agriculture may issue licenses to such Canadian publishers as

apply for them to issue such works in the Dominion, ten per cent. of the retail price being returned to the Treasury for the benefit of the authors. The law thus superseded allowed the introduction into Canada of foreign reprints of British copyrights on the payment to the owners of 12½ per cent. royalty, besides the ordinary customs dues, unless Canadian copyright had been obtained by the work being printed and published in the Dominion.

One of the subjects to be discussed at the International Marine Conference which meets at Washington next autumn will be the perils to which vessels crossing the Atlantic are exposed. A quickened sense of those perils has been created by several hair-breadth escapes that have taken place during the last few years. The strange thing is that this increasing consciousness of the dangers of ocean travel does not in the least degree impair the eagerness of the demand for faster steamships. Fast ships the mercantile communities of both sides of the Atlantic must have at whatever cost in harrassed nerves to timid voyagers. Last year a sort of symposium was opened in the pages of the *North American Review* on this very question, and the weight of the testimony presented by the experts who took part in it was in favour of swiftness even as an element in safety. If there was real danger, it was urged, the sooner the crisis was past the better. Delay only increased the risk. But what of the slower vessel in such a case? That was another question. That there is risk will hardly be doubted by any one who reads the experience of Captain C. W. Kennedy in the pages of the same review. One source of safety, according to that experienced sailor, is a uniform system of compass fog signals. His advice is that the maritime nations should not delay the needed reform till oft repeated warnings are confirmed by some dreadful catastrophe. The Samoa disaster has also directed attention to the hurricanes of the inter-tropical Atlantic, and the publication of a hurricane chart of West Indian waters in connection with the monthly "Pilot Chart" of the Weather Bureau has been devised in view of the season's possibilities.

Quebec has been visited by another of those calamitous fires which have so often desolated that ancient city. It began soon after midnight on the morning of the 16th inst. in a small wooden house near the St. Valier toll-gate and swept with resistless fury over the whole St. Sauveur district, the material of the houses and the lack of proper protective appliances making the district a ready prey to the flames. More than eight hundred families were rendered homeless, and great distress prevails in spite of efforts to relieve it. A deeper gloom overshadowed the stricken city when it was known that Major Short, of B. Battery, and Staff-Sergeant Wallack, had perished while trying to arrest the progress of the fire. Under Major Short's direction four houses had already been blown up and the explosive had been placed in the ground floor of another, when, some delay occurring in the working of the fuse, the Major, followed by Sergeant Wallack, entered the building to see what was wrong. The explosion then took place, instantly killing Major Short, who was literally torn in pieces, and fatally injuring Sergeant Wallack. Both the deceased soldiers were general favorites in their respective circles. Major Short had distinguished himself in the Northwest rebellion and was highly esteemed by all his comrades for his courage, modesty and geniality. His death is mourned not only in Quebec, but at Kingston, the home of his