

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEVER before in the history of London were there so many projects advanced for promoting the happiness and education of the poor. It is now proposed to start a great palace for the people at the east end of London, which shall be a centre of enjoyment, refinement and culture, for the sons of toil. A gymnasium, winter garden, library, lectures and amusements will help to throw a glimpse of light over the life of those who toil along in the dreariest daily drudgery imaginable. We sincerely hope that the proprietors of the scheme will be successful.

THE coal question in the North-West is becoming almost a thing of the past. At Edmonton coal was for some time a drug on the market selling at only \$2.50 a ton. A cold snap set in and there was a brisk demand for coal at \$3.25, and at this price Edmonton has excellent fuel. Plenty of coal in the North-West is the great need at present and when this want has been supplied, a future brighter than ever is assured for that splendid country.

SPAIN is again troubled by republicans. Much anxiety has been occasioned by a manifesto of Ruiz Zorilla, which has just been published by a Madrid journal, in which he denounces the monarchy, asserts the necessity of a republic, and defends the recent military outbreak. He prophesies a speedy revolution, when, with the new republic, will come trial by jury, civil marriages, abolition of slavery, assimilation of the colonies, and reforms in every department.

LORD WOLSELEY, who recently attended a distribution of prizes to a volunteer battalion at St. James' Hall, London, observed that the fact that every nation in Europe was arming indicated that there was coming over the world some terrible war, and he urged that England ought to prepare itself for that event. It is not often that Lord Wolseley plays the part of a military alarmist, and as he is supposed to be well versed in that particular branch of study, his words carry some force with them.

AN official return shows that the exports of agricultural products, including of course, cattle and their products, were in

1878.....	32,029,611
1879.....	33,729,068
1880.....	39,901,905
1881.....	42,628,546

In 1871 the amount was only \$22,436,071. The great increase is a matter for congratulation and shews the steady prosperity of Canada in this her most natural resource.

NUBAR PASHA, who was the Egyptian Minister of War in 1876, has accepted the Premiership of the new Ministry, and has appointed Mr. Edgar Vincent Minister of Finance. Nubar Pasha is a staunch exponent of Anglo-Egyptian views and is anxious to see England take sole charge of Egypt. His elevation to power will probably hasten what seems to be the ultimate destiny of Egypt, viz., That Egypt must become one with England.

DURING the past year the depreciation in the values of American railroad stocks has been enormous. In thirty four railroads, it amounts to no less than \$22,966,000. Northern Pacific, Oregon Railway and Navigation, and Oregon Transcontinental lead with a depreciation of \$65,159,000. Never before in the history of the country has there

been such activity in railroad making, but the depressing depreciation will probably make companies go along cautiously for the next few years.

THERE is much cause for rejoicing over the British Government report of persons receiving relief in England last year. Only 788,289 persons, out of a population of about 26 millions, received relief; and of these, no fewer than 102,208 are described as adult able-bodied persons. Ten years ago, however, though the population was three million less, there were 977,200 paupers, of whom the able-bodied adults numbered 150,930. In other words, though the population has since then increased more than 13 per cent., there has been an absolute decrease of more than 19 per cent., in the mean number of paupers, and a decrease of 32 per cent. in the number of adult able-bodied paupers. Certainly, a sign of better days, and largely due to the untiring efforts of the Church to ameliorate and elevate the poor of England.

The revenue derived from sugar in Canada last year was \$2,197,000, a less revenue than that obtained over sugar in the year 1877. The direct imports from the West Indies have, however, increased from 8,000,000 pounds in 1878 to 70,000,000 pounds in 1882—an increase which represents an enormous gain to Canadian shipping interests.

ACCORDING to a cable despatch to the New York papers, the Canadian Government is communicating with Earl Granville in respect to arranging a basis for the negotiation of a reciprocity treaty with the United States Government, including a settlement of the Canadian fisheries question.

THE disputes between the Government and British Columbia are now said to be settled. The Province grants to the Dominion a belt 20 miles in width on each side of the C. P. R. route; it transfers in trust to the Dominion the land subsidy to the Nanaimo Railway; and it relinquishes in favor of the Dominion its title to 3,500,000 acres in the Peace River region adjoining the Peace River region of the North-west.

THE murder of Sudeikin by Nihilists has completely demoralized the Russian officials, and been the cause of increased stringency in all quarters. It is represented in some of the papers that the revival of Nihilism actually has had a terrible effect upon the Czar. Private information is alleged to represent him as suffering from delirium, and sentries in and about his palace have been trebled. The life of his oldest son is now threatened. The central fact of the last assassination is that it was planned and carried out by a man who was regarded as the most efficient and trustworthy agent of the police, and the boast of Nihilism that it is everywhere certainly appears justified.

THERE is something almost pathetic in the fall of Mr. Villard, who recently held the position of President of the Northern Pacific Railway. A few months ago he was worth many millions of dollars gained principally by speculations. But counter speculators were too strong for him, and his riches disappeared faster than they came. There is a lesson in the failure. Quiet honest endeavours are the safest in the long run. The fevered speculator must have many a night-mare over the prospective loss of his quickly gained fortune.

THE government control of telegraphy in England has proved of great benefit to the nation.

From a report just published it appears that the number of messages sent in the United Kingdom during the year was 42,092,026, which is an increase of 746,165 as compared with the number of the previous year. The number of messages sent in London was 12,374,707, against 12,071,034 in 1881-82. During the past year one hundred and two post-offices and forty-five railway stations offices were opened for telegraph work, and at the present time the total number of telegraph offices in the United Kingdom is 5,742. The Government intends soon to make a reduction of fifty per cent. in telegraphic charges, and will do so, as Mr. Fawcett says, just as soon as the proper arrangements therefor can be effected. The whole affair makes the Canadian merchant long for the day when the government will control telegraphy in Canada.

THE Tichbourne claimant will shortly be released from imprisonment and the patrons of this now famous character have bought the celebrated Granville Hotel for him.

MR. LOWELL has retired from the rectorship of St. Andrew's University, to which he was recently elected. He states that his resignation was owing to the difficulty he would encounter in properly discharging his duties as rector of the University in view of his position as Ambassador of the United States.

THE vexed question of the "Ilbert Bill" has been settled by a wise modification of its rules. The concessions will remove a disability of native magistrates, but at the same time will restore a privilege of European subjects which it was here proposed to curtail. Every native civilian of the rank of district magistrate or session judge shall have the same power of trying every kind of accused persons as British colleagues of similar rank; but European subjects shall, in every case, and whatever the race of the presiding magistrate, be privileged to be tried by a jury composed of a majority of their own countrymen.

PICTURE buyers will scarcely hear with pleasure that it is estimated by persons who have studied the question that four-fifths of the pictures sold now-a-days under the name of the French artists are forgeries. A petition to the French Senate is being circulated for special legislation in the subject.

IT is reported from Iceland that a lady called Torfbildur Thornsteindattir Holm, at present in Canada, has edited at Reikjavik an historical novel in Icelandic entitled "Brynjolfur Sveinsson." This is said to be the first historical novel ever written in that language. The plot is laid in Iceland in the middle of the seventeenth century, and the hero, Brynjolf Sveinsson, is the Bishop of Skalholt, who discovered the MSS. of the older Edda in the year 1643.

AN Ottawa telegram says there is no truth in the statement which has been recently published widely in United States journals that, according to cable from London, England, the Canadian Government is communicating with Earl Granville in respect to arrangements for a basis of negotiation for a reciprocal treaty between Canada and the United States, including the settlement of the Canadian fisheries question. It is true, however, that certain large interests in the United States are endeavouring to procure reciprocal trade for their own benefit, without regard to the general question.