

THE PHILOSOPHER.

THE LEADING INDUSTRY OF CANADA.

A bulletin recently issued by the Census Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture places the number of people in Canada between the ages of fifteen and sixty-five at 3,213,663, of whom 1,652,990 are males and 1,560,673 are females. The bulletin deals with the occupations of 1,615,521 males and 250,698 females, or 1,866,129 persons, and shows the total number engaged in agriculture to be 716,937. Of these, 707,997 are males, only 72,696 of whom are working for wages. The great majority of the remainder, 635,301, own their farms as well as work them. The percentage of females in agricultural pursuits, who are in receipt of wages is very small, only 92, out of a total of 8,940 being so classified. The average yearly wage of farm help, according to this bulletin, is a little more than \$206, but in the majority of cases the farm hand is employed only a portion of the year. The total annual amount of wages paid is placed at \$15,101,976. In the mechanical and manufacturing industries of the Dominion 389,873 persons are engaged, being half as many as are engaged in agriculture. The earnings of these 389,873 persons last year totalled \$100,708,217. Only 275,663 are described as earners, so that the yearly annual wage, taking men, women and children together, is a little more than \$365.

PROVIDING FOR A REGENCY.

King George is a robust and healthy man, still on the sunny side of middle age, and it may seem strange that the British Parliament should be exercising itself over a Regency Bill. Yet one of the serious duties of Parliament at the commencement of a new reign is to make provision for a regency, to the end that there shall be no confusion in the realm in the event of the monarch dying suddenly with no successor of the age to take up the responsibilities of the Crown. The Bill to make Queen Mary the Regent during the minority of the heir apparent, in the event of the King's death, has been submitted to Parliament by the Ministers and is another manifestation of the preponderance of Parliament in the realm and of the fact that the title to the Crown is a Parliamentary title. If, as happily there is no reason to fear, King George should die before the Prince of Wales became of age, Queen Mary, as Regent and Guardian of the Prince, who is now under eighteen years of age, would be called upon to do most of the things a reigning monarch of Great Britain does, but not all. She would be forbidden, for example, to give the Royal Assent to any Bill for repealing, changing or in any way varying the order or course of succession to the Crown, as established by the Act of Settlement in 1688. There is no danger of Parliament enacting, or Queen Mary approving, any legislation invalidating the title of the House of Hanover to the British Crown. Nevertheless, the idea is to leave nothing to chance. It is stipulated in the Regency Bill that the Regent shall have no power whatever to repeal the fundamental laws of Great Britain, including the securing to Scotland of the Presbyterian religion. The Bill further declares that if Queen Mary, during her Regency, should marry a Roman Catholic, or be reconciled to, or hold communion with, the See or Church of Rome, her power and authority as Regent shall then and there cease. Everything is settled on the principle that the title of the reigning dynasty to the Crown is absolutely the creation of Parliament, and that what Parliament has created it is the right and duty of Parliament to regulate.

CANADIAN CATTLE AND THE BRITISH MARKET.

The rising prices of meat have revived the agitation in Great Britain for the lifting of the embargo on Canadian live cattle. Mr. Walter Long said in 1896, as President of the British Board of Agriculture—or, as we should say, Minister of Agriculture—that "if the British stock breeders were given security against disease, the supply of 'store' cattle would very soon meet the demand." But, as a matter of fact, the prohibition of the importation of live cattle into Great Britain, on the ground that such importation is necessary in order to protect British herds from diseases, has not stimulated cattle raising in Great Britain, as predicted by Mr. Long. The number of cattle in Great Britain in 1891 was 6,852,821; in 1909 it was 7,921,153, an increase of only 168,332 in fifteen years. Under the existing law, Great Britain depends for its supply of "store" cattle upon Ireland alone. In a single year Ireland sends about 800,000 cattle across St. George's Channel. The total number of cattle in Ireland in 1908, the latest year for which the official statistics are available, was 4,792,000. But can Ireland be depended upon for a permanent supply. A writer in the London Daily News thinks

not. There is at present a movement in Ireland in favor of fattening the cattle now sent over to Great Britain as "stores," and with that end in view the extension of tillage is being encouraged. When Ireland takes to fattening its cattle on anything like an extensive scale, it will also do the killing, in order to profit by the valuable by-products of the abattoir. From 1880 to 1890 cattle to the number of 1,300,000 were landed in Great Britain from Canada. From 1890 to 1892, when live cattle, no matter where they came from, were barred out from Great Britain, as they still are, the number of Canadian cattle landed in British ports was 200,000. Cattle from the United States, except for slaughter at the port of landing, have been excluded from Great Britain since 1890, and Argentine cattle have never been admitted, except for slaughter. There are strong arguments for the relaxation of the embargo against Canada, at least. Our dead meat trade with Great Britain has not grown as rapidly as that of the United States or of Argentina, and the admission of Canadian live cattle into Great Britain would confer an immediate benefit on the farmers of Canada; and the consumers in Great Britain would also benefit.

REMOVING AN AMERICAN MISCONCEPTION.

Whether or not the hundred years of peace between the two great branches of the English-speaking family will be celebrated in a formal manner in 1914, there will assuredly, by that date, be a still better understanding prevailing between the people of the British Empire and the people of the United States. The entrance of the United States into world politics, which happened about the same time as the waking up of the people of the United States to the fact that another great nation on the same continent is progressing with giant strides, has effected a great amount of educational progress, and the interchange of travel has further softened the asperities that used to some extent mar Anglo-Saxon relations. One of the most abiding of American misconceptions seems now to be in the way of disappearing. That misconception has been in connection with British rule in India. Only a couple of months ago it was in evidence, when the Gaekwar of Baroda, when he was in New York, after his trip through Canada, was pictured as an example of the vast possibilities of free, active, self-rule in India, and was at the same time assured by some of the newspapers in the United States that British rule in India was near its end. In the current North American Review, there appears the first of a series of articles upon the British in India, from no less authoritative a hand than that of Lord Curzon, the Ex-Viceroy. It has the place of honor in the Review, is prefaced by a strongly complimentary notice by the Editor, and is written by a man whose personality is peculiarly calculated to attract American sympathy. Significant, too, is the fact that these articles follow close upon several important pronouncements by Mr. Roosevelt in endorsement of British administrative methods towards the races in tutelage. Lord Curzon makes it plain that his purpose in writing is to clear the minds of Americans of a number of misconceptions, and his first article is certainly a very enlightening one. With the Irish question in sight of settlement and the legend of barbarity in India and Egypt effectively disposed of by the testimony of such men as Lord Curzon and Ex-President Roosevelt, the people of the United States will soon be drifting peacefully into the belief that perhaps the British Empire is not such a bad affair after all.

TO GIVE EVERY PERSON A NUMBER.

Every now and then some unrecognized genius introduces in the Chamber of Deputies, which is the House of Commons of the Parliament of France, some legislative proposal which has the quality of originality, even though it lacks sense. The latest of these highly original legislative projects is that of Henri Durand, deputy from Angoulême, who wants to have the people of France known by numbers instead of names. The working of the system, according to Henri, would be simplicity itself. Every child, at birth, instead of being given a name by its parents, would have a number bestowed upon it by the local mayor, as is done with automobiles. The simplicity of the system is set forth eloquently by Henri. He points out that one of its chief merits would be that it would do away with the confusion, trouble and annoyance resulting from similarity of names. With deep logic, he points out that the system works admirably in penitentiaries. The "sentimental objection" that people are attached to their family names he disposes of by declaring that such attachment is founded in "base and paltry pride." His system,

he proclaims, would "drive out of France the last remnants of the aristocratic system." The Frenchmen at present styling themselves counts, marquises or dukes would have to live under numbers. A man unwilling to be known by his number is of no use to the state, says Deputy Durand summarily; but if he is a man of integrity and ability, he will be proud of his number, live up to it, and even be ready to die for it! Sad to relate, the Chamber of Deputies has refused to regard the Durand proposal seriously. It is impossible to regard seriously such a project, under which the account of a wedding, for example, would read to the effect that Mr. 126,783 was married to Miss 183,442 by the Rev. Mr. 113,529, the bridesmaid being Miss 179,610, the best man Mr. 127,227, and among those present being Mr. 137,641, Mrs. 165,401, Miss 192,823, and so on. The imagination staggers at the thought of such a thing.

CANADA'S WHEAT POSSIBILITIES.

There has been some discussion as to how long it will be before Western Canada will produce sufficient supplies to furnish all the wheat and flour needed by Great Britain, which, estimated in wheat, runs from 200,000,000 to 250,000,000 bushels per annum. Dr. William Saunders, Director of Dominion Experimental Farms, stated recently that at the present rate of progress which is being made in this country, ten years more ought to see the surplus wheat for export equal to Great Britain's present consumption. It is of interest to note that while the average yield of wheat for the whole Dominion is 21.39 bushels per acre, the average of the field crops of wheat at the several Experimental Farms rises to 36.59 bushels. The United States, taking the whole of that country, gives an average of but 13.43 bushels, while the yield in Great Britain is 31.14 bushels. France gives an average for the past ten years of 19.57 bushels, so that Canada is ahead of that country in this particular. In Argentina, which is one of this country's close competitors, in its total of wheat production, the yield is only 14.76 bushels. Germany, with an average of 28.25 bushels, comes closest to Great Britain, while Russia ranks lowest in average wheat production, with 9.05 bushels to the acre.

THE DANGER INSTINCT

Many of the creatures of the wilds sleep "with one eye open." The snapping of a twig arouses them. In the daylight they walk circumspectly, for their foes are ever near. Few of them die natural deaths. Savage races of mankind have always been found to possess, like the animals they hunted, senses of the greatest keenness and something of that indefinable instinct which warns the birds and the beasts of approaching danger. With the advancement of man in civilization, however, that keenness of eye and ear and of that danger instinct became blunted. It would seem that the time is at hand when, at any rate for dwellers in great cities, that instinct must be re-developed. The traffic of a great city is a constant menace to people who are not wide-awake and alert. And to these perils that move upon the ground level must now be added the perils of the air, the wrench or bottle carelessly dropped from a passing airship, or it may be the airship hurling itself with its human freight to destruction.

THE STARVATION CURE.

If Mark Twain were still living he would have read with pleasure and interest the account of the almost miraculous escape from death by starvation in the forest of the veteran mining engineer, Captain Roland, of Port Arthur. The story of his being found, after thirty-four days of wandering, was one of the most remarkable pieces of news which the papers had to print during the past month. Captain Roland's experience is a notable testimony to the efficacy, in his case, of the starvation cure. He is a man who is close upon three score and ten. He suffered greatly from rheumatism, which, we are told, has been cured by his terrible experience of living for nearly five weeks on bark and leaves—there were not even berries, and as he was unarmed when he became separated from his party and lost his way, he could not kill any game. Mark Twain was a great advocate of the starvation cure for many ailments, and he would have rejoiced in Captain Roland's case. Fasting is an excellent thing for a number of the ills that flesh is heir to, but it is a dangerous thing to carry to extreme lengths. Sufferers from rheumatism who think of trying Captain Roland's cure had best do so under the eye of a physician.