

What the World is Saying

THE STEADY AND EVER INCREASING STREAM of immigration from the United States to Canada has made many Americans fondly ask if this is the thin edge of the annexation wedge. Indeed, to some

**PROPHETS WITH-
OUT VISION.** the subject has passed the bounds of possibility, and entered the realm of

certainly. One writer, representative of many, commenting on the exodus, says: "From all this it would seem that the annexation of Canada by pacific means is only a question of time."

It is some years now since the Canadian people heard the annexation idea speak with a voice loud enough to be heard above the din of other interests. Even Mr. Goldwin Smith, its loudest prophet and most ardent sympathizer, has confined himself lately to intermittent mutterings.

So far as Canada is concerned, annexation is a dead issue. The commercial and other interests existing between the two countries will, no doubt, grow; but that annexation will be the final consummation of these relations is a vanishing hope. Canada has other aims. The national thought has captivated her. She is rapidly taking her position as a nation. Many of the ties which have bound her to England must necessarily be broken as she moves towards independence. That she will transfer her affections and her allegiance to the United States is the expectation of those profoundly ignorant of Canadian sentiment.

LOVERS OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY have deeply sympathized with the United Free Church people in their fight against the decision of the House of Lords. The matter has been

THE CHURCH CRISIS IN SCOTLAND.

aggravated lately by a piratical aggressiveness on the part of the Wee Frees. They gather a handful of discontented people together, and by appeals to the lowest motives boldly claim church buildings owned by large and influential congregations. Rev. Dr. Whyte, a well-known Free Church divine, recently said: "To be cast out of a church that your brothers and yourselves had built by your hard-won earnings; a church in which you have enjoyed so many days of heaven upon earth under an able and evangelical ministry, and now it has come to this, that you are compelled to lift your Bible and pass out of your own church into the street, and that at the demand of men who were your fellow-worshippers and your fellow-communicants till yesterday."

Principal Rainy, commenting on the new aspect of the subject, says: "As things stand at present, it would appear that a group of people of any previous ecclesiastical connection, if they declare themselves Free Church and are recognized as such by the Free Church advisory committee, may successfully claim any of our churches and may evict any of our congregations, however numerous and devoted."

THAT THE IMMIGRATION of the American farmer to Canada is causing uneasiness across the line is evident from the amount of discussion over the subject in the American press and periodicals. The Seattle

THE COMING OF THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Daily News has an able paper on the subject. It says: "The invasion of Canada by the United States is no mere figure of speech. For years our farmers and cattlemen have been quietly moving north of the forty-ninth parallel in a steady stream, which for the last five years has attained a volume and importance worthy of serious consideration."

The reason for the trek is that the trusts have their grip on the American agriculture as they have on almost all other branches of industry. "Chief among the reasons given by cattlemen is that the beef trust has for years had him in its net, and he has to sell his cattle at their price. The farmer was also in the clutches of several other trusts and railway combines, and he found, despite the promised help of interstate commerce laws, and state railway commissions, that every year found him more firmly held in the grip of monopolies."

The writer deplors the loss to the Republic of citizens of the stamp of these farmers who have transformed the Western prairies into an agricultural empire.

IT IS THE FATE OF THE MISSIONARY to work in the shadows of national life, and to be a silent, though potent force in the building of that life. But at last his work is being

THE MISSIONARY AS A NATION BUILDER.

prized at its true value. This is largely due to the philosophic historian, who has not failed to see the importance of the service rendered by the unassuming missionary, and with unstinted hand deals out the praise which is his due. Western Canada owes much to the missionary. So says the Manitoba Scotsman: "Among the forces at play in building up Western Canada, none are doing better or more important work than the pioneer missionaries and preachers of the various churches, who are devoting their lives to laying those foundations upon which alone a nation can build with any prospect of permanency." It is to be sincerely hoped that present Canada will rise to a proper appreciation of the great work her missionaries and clergy are doing, and not leave the ages to come the necessary, though sad task, of placing the flowers on the graves of men which we neglected to place in their hands.

IN ITS EDITORIAL on Philanthropy and Facts the Calgary Herald has spoken the thoughts of all interested in the growth of Western Canada, and the happiness of those who make it

THE SALVATION ARMY AS A COLONIZER.

their home. Its treatment of the Salvation Army colonization scheme displays insight and impartiality. It asks: "What chance have these children of the city streets, reduced by hopeless struggle with poverty in its dreariest form, in competition with the brain and brawn of the man of the new world? Those who succeed will be the exception. The examples of failures in the West today are largely confined to this type of men."

The writer thinks "one brawny son of the Highlands of Scotland, one Englishman inured to the hardships of old world farming, one Ontario boy, who has been nursed upon the bracing air of the new world—all of them—are set a fast pace. They run a mile while the products of these congested districts are pulling their boots on." These words are wise. There seems to be a growing disposition on the part of philanthropic societies to regard Canada as a providentially ordained sewerage system to cleanse European cities of their degenerates.

DR. OSLER HAS BEEN severely criticised for his views about life after forty and sixty, but young people would do well to read a recent speech of his on the "Master Word." The master word is "work." The doctor calls it

"THE MASTER WORD."

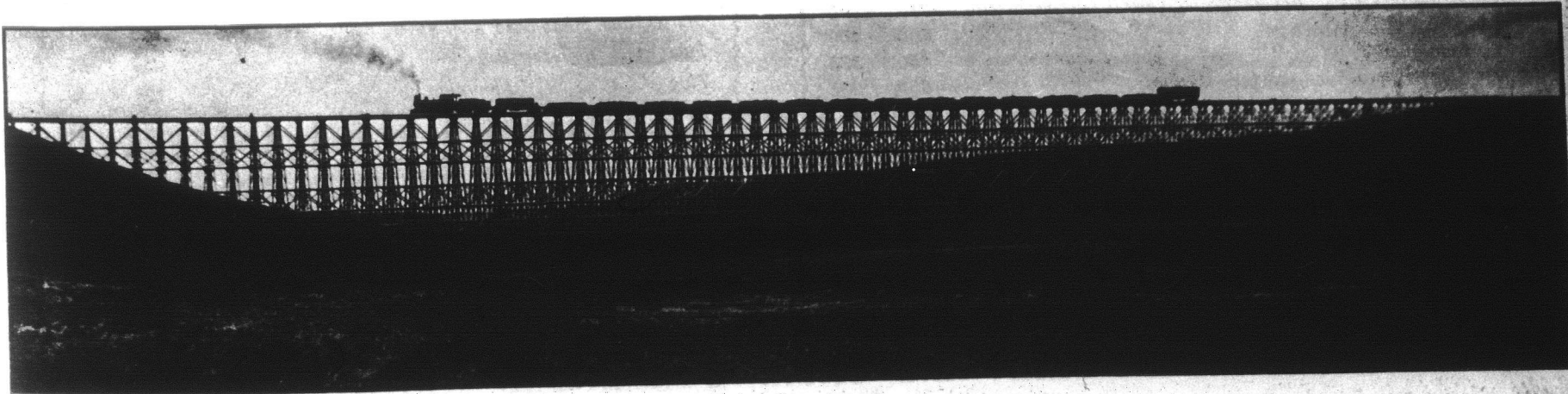
"the open sesame to every portal, the great equalizer in the world, the true philosopher's stone, which transmutes all the base metal of humanity into gold. The stupid man among you it will make bright, the bright man brilliant, and the brilliant student steady. With the magic word in your heart, all things are possible, and without it all study is vanity and vexation. To the youth it brings hope, to the middle-aged confidence, to the aged repose."

Life's reckoning days come with the proverbial sureness of death and taxes. Nature gives us every chance, and will now and then be stayed off with a note, but a note is not payment. The day comes when we must pay up. Dr. Osler's master word applied will bring us to our reckoning days with full hands and smiling faces.

A VERY GRATIFYING FEATURE of Northwest journalism is its desire to see the country grow along lines that are not purely materialistic. Much attention is devoted to the cultivation of a true home

THE MAKING OF THE WEST.

life, the planting of trees, benefits of religion, and other kindred subjects. The Western Home Monthly wishes to be identified with the good work, and with this end in view has opened a correspondence page entirely devoted to topics which deal with "the making of the West." Through this medium many valuable suggestions will be given by people engaged in every walk of life.



CANADIAN NORTHERN BRIDGE AT CLARK'S CROSSING, SASK.

Its length, including approaches, is 1,675 feet; length of steel work, 1,080 feet; carrying capacity for two 153 ton consolidation engines followed by train load of 4,200 lbs. per lineal foot; height above low water, 90 feet; tops of piers, 50 feet above water mark; actual time of work in building, about one year.