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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, 5th August, 1876.

THE VALUE OF LUMBER.

The Government in a new country like Canada can hardly be expected to be as economical of the resources of the country as an old country like England. England is respectable, wealthy, long past middle-age, and while she spends on a very large scale, yet she knows every penny that she spends, and keeps almost as anxious an eye to the resources of the coming decade as she does to that through which she is passing. Canada, on the other hand, has a tendency to believe that her resources are unlimited, and while she does not spend more than a fraction of what England spends, yet it is not spent with more than a moiety of the care.

Perhaps the weakest spot in this way in the history of the past and of the present Governments is the reckless extravagance with which one of the principal means for raising ready cash followed by us has been unfortunately already almost exhausted.

The country back of the Ottawa is almost an unknown land to the vast proportion of the population of this Province. What has been going on there has been done, so to speak, in a corner, and its folly and improvidence requires care and research to bring it to light. Unfortunately, in a new, prosperous country, people are too busy making money to devote much care and research to patriotic investigations which will only issue in odium and (so far as action is concerned) in failure.

In passing through the outskirts of the great forest district we find chance farmers alluding with indignation to what is going on. The limits they say are rented to "big men." There is no fair chance for competitors to obtain any rights even at higher rates than those paid by the Government favorites. They do not accuse the administration of dishonesty or of direct obvious mismanagement. But, it is said that they ought to be told by "somebody" what is going on. The forest trees are cut down, and because they pay the same price for all logs, big and small, they find it pays to take only the first one or two chips and leave the rest of the logs to waste. No precautions are taken to prevent the spread of fire. The best trees are cut down and enough trees left to yield a large profit if they were got out when the winter roads were cut to bring out their neighbours; but not sufficiently valuable to repay the expense of making arrangements to get them to market alone.

The subject has been investigated with very great care by Mr. JAMES LITTLE in a recent pamphlet which lies on our table.

He is an acknowledged authority on the subject and his views, which seem at first sight sensational, are acknowledged by experts to be true. As to the Valley of the Ottawa he says "it is the only pine timber region we have, worth giving a

moment's consideration to, in discussing the question of supply, and yet from the information I have obtained on the subject, from those whose lives have been mostly spent in the territory, I have every reason to conclude that, at the rate of consumption going on, a single decade will be sufficient time to totally exhaust its resources."

As to the supply generally in the Dominion he says, "in five years, lumber will be higher on this side the Atlantic, with the above exception, than it is now or will then be in Great Britain."

Its value there may be estimated from the following fact, the truth of which may be vouched for—"sale of 300 acres of timber grown by the Earl of Cawdor on the mountains of Scotland, brought 16,000 pounds sterling, about 80,000 dollars, and that after it had undergone repeated thinnings which realized large additional sums, and," Mr. LITTLE remarks, "I will venture to say that there are not 300 acres of the timber which the lumbermen of New Brunswick are now recklessly throwing away but what would be worth as much in five years time if left untouched."

We would call the attention of all who own woodlands in the townships to the consideration of these facts. Let no more trees be burned as incumbrance to the farmer. On the contrary, we hope to see every prudent landowner retain or even plant out at least forty acres in wood which is enough to supply the wants of each homestead for ever.

INCREASE OF INSANITY.

In a paper lately read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of this city, Dr. HENRY HOWARD, Medical Superintendent of the Longue Point Lunatic Asylum, treats of the increase of insanity and inquires into its cause. It will be allowed that no man in Canada, either through careful study, or long experience, is more competent than Dr. HOWARD to handle this important subject, and although, from a merely metaphysical point of view, we may not entirely endorse some of the incidental principles which he invokes, we regard his lecture as sufficiently useful and interesting for a brief analysis.

The author begins by denying most positively that drunkenness is a cause of insanity, and, by consequence, that the increase of insanity is due to the increase of intemperance. He affirms, from an experience of sixteen years, that the number of inebriates is a very small minority of the insane and that, of 210 treatable cases admitted into the insane hospital at Longue Pointe since August, 1875, only 29 were accused of being drunkards.

This point being disposed of, the Doctor lays down two causes for the increase of insanity, the remote and the immediate. The remote is hereditary disease; the immediate may be summed up in one word—suffering.

Insanity is set down as a hereditary disease, like phthisis, cancer or gout, and no man can go mad from any cause unless there is in him an insane neurosis. This and other hereditary diseases may die out and become extinct by time and circumstances, but our author doubts this, having never seen any proof in corroboration. The most that he allows is that the insane neurosis may be modified by time and marriage.

The exciting or immediate cause of insanity, or that which gives development to the hereditary neurosis is suffering, and the Doctor gives that name to anything, no matter what, though pleasurable to the person, that diminishes vital power, or nervous force. There are curious views enunciated in this connection which we have no space to discuss, but the two main causes of this suffering which Dr. HOWARD lays down are curious enough. They are emigration and education. "So great have been the facilities offered for emigration within the last half century, that there is no country that has not sent forth thousands upon thousands of her

people, to some promised land. Now it is impossible to conceive any human being leaving the land of his nativity, his parents, the home of his childhood, and his numerous friends, and for him not to suffer, and suffer acutely. Our insane hospitals contain insane of all nations, and one of their everlasting cries is, 'my own country, my own home.'" With regard to the other cause—education, we may direct notice to this bit of generalization:—"I point to the neglect of agriculture, the neglect of that very thing upon which all, each, and every one of us, are depending for our daily bread. Let the agriculturalist fail, the professional man, the mercantile man, tradesman and all, must suffer, and because of its neglect, is due at the present day nine-tenths of all the suffering the world is passing through. Still, young, strong healthy men, lured by false appearances, will persevere in forsaking the land, and crowding into towns and cities, destroying the legitimate callings of others, and bringing ruin on themselves."

THE ICELANDIC COLONY.

We have kept our readers informed of the progress of Icelandic settlement in Canada. It may assume large proportions. The number of 760 Icelanders passed through this city a few days ago en route for Gimli—the name of the Icelandic Colony on the West Shore of Lake Winnipeg, immediately north of the Province line of Manitoba. This party came by the Austrian from Glasgow, to which port they sailed from Iceland; and we understand that another party of about 400 more will likely arrive by the Phœnician before these lines can pass through the press. These numbers, added to the nearly 400 souls who went to Gimli last autumn, will make a respectable nucleus of settlement. The Icelanders who came by the Austrian are a very fine-looking lot of men and women. Healthier and stronger men never came to these shores. The women are especially strong-backed and strong-armed, for the most part dressed in home-spun woollens, and all very cleanly and simple in their attire. They appear to be in excellent spirits. Everything they saw was new to them. The railways were especially a surprise. These they saw for the first time in Scotland. One of the most respectable of the party informed our reporter that they were prepared to meet with hardships, and cope with them. Many of them in fact left the prospect of hardships at home. The cod which was the main reliance on a part of their native island, has scarcely at all visited them for nearly a year; and the terrible volcanic eruptions which took place last summer have rendered a considerable portion uninhabitable. The population of Iceland is about 60,000, and the island boasts of a civilization of a thousand years. It is particularly rich in legendary lore; and its inhabitants are pre-eminent in literature of this nature. They boast that the tongue spoken on the island is much purer Scandinavian than the forms now spoken in Sweden and Norway; and they can appeal to high authority in support of this view. If the colony of Gimli should prove successful, it is the beginning of a large movement; and a very considerable portion of the whole population will emigrate. We shall therefore watch its progress with interest. It is remarkable that the Icelanders very soon learn to speak the English language with purity; and they very soon adopt the manners of the country. Those who have obtained Icelandic servants find them very valuable. If the wilds on the West of Lake Winnipeg can be settled with this interesting people, it will not only be a historic fact of great interest, but it will greatly add to the prosperity of Canada. It will further be a gratification to Lord DUFFERIN that it comes during his vice-regal term, from the interest he has evinced in their favour. We shall keep our readers informed of any further facts that transpire.

The Hon. JOHN YOUNG has published a pamphlet on the origin of the Victoria Bridge. He proves conclusively that it was he who first suggested in print the idea of a bridge across the St. Lawrence, a little below Nuns' Island. His claim to this merit appears incontestible from the evidence adduced. He shows, on equally good proofs, that he was the first to move practically in the fulfilment of the great scheme. The engineering he attributes primarily to ALEXANDER M. ROSS. On this point, the evidence is strong, but not quite so conclusive. Notwithstanding the charge of egotism which Mr. YOUNG feels may be urged against the vindication of his rights in the premises, we think he is perfectly justified in rectifying the historical facts of the case. The Victoria Bridge was, in its time, and is still a stupendous work, and there is a degree of glory attached to its initiation which Mr. YOUNG is right in attaching to his name.

THE WAR IN THE EAST.

PRINCE MILAN IV., OBRENOVITCH, is now only twenty-one years of age. He succeeded to the throne in 1868, upon the assassination of his father, the State being ruled until his majority in 1872, by a Council of Regency. During the past year Prince Milan has done his best to comply with the advice of the Powers, and to restrain his subjects eager to succour the Herzegovinian insurgents and wage war with the hated Turk. But popular feeling has, in the end, proved too strong for him. The Princess Nathalie Petrovna, to whom Prince Milan was married last October, is the daughter of a very wealthy Russian officer, Colonel Keschko, and his wife, the Princess Stourdza. The Princess is only seventeen years old; but, during the short time she has been on the throne, she has fairly won the hearts of her subjects, and is universally popular. She is said to be very pretty and exceedingly graceful, and to possess considerable tact. The Commander-in-Chief is General Tcherniaeff, a Russian officer, who has fought bravely in the Caucasus under General Kauffman. Owing to some misunderstanding with his superiors, however, he left the army, and practised as a notary at Moscow until last spring, when he accepted a command in the Servian army. His colleague, General Francis Zach, chief of the Servian staff, and first aide-de-camp of Prince Milan, is a Croatian by birth. He is an officer of some renown, having commanded the Slovaks in Hungary, in 1848-49, during their revolt against the Magyars. He has organised a College of Artillery at Belgrade and a cannon foundry, is the author of several well-known topographical works on European Turkey, and a short time since was raised to the rank of General by Prince Milan, being at that time the only officer of that grade in Servia. Colonel Tikomir Nikolitch is the Minister of War. He is related to Prince Milan by his marriage with a lady of the Obrenovitch family. Colonel Milankovitch, the first administrator of the War Office, may also be termed his colleague, as this post at the present time exacts very hard work, and needs an immense amount of talent and devotion. Colonel Milankovitch was educated in Austria, and, speaking numerous languages, has several times been despatched on diplomatic business to the Foreign Powers.

BOYS' HOME, HAMILTON.

The Hamilton Boys' Home was started in October, 1870, under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A., with four inmates. At present, there are sixty-seven boys in the Home, the greatest number of the inmates at one time being seventy-two. The president is Mrs. R. Thomson; Vice-President, Miss Russell; Treasurer, Mrs. J. Stuart; and Secretary, Miss Bickley. The fifth annual report showed the Home to be in a flourishing condition, and, owing to the munificent bequest of the late Albert Bigelow of \$17,000, the Committee were able to decide upon erecting the magnificent building, the corner-stone of which was laid on the 19th ult., and of which we publish a sketch to-day.

LITERARY.

MAURICE SAND forbids persons holding letters from his mother publishing them under penalty of prosecution.

ALPHONSE KARR, the French novelist, has a flower and vegetable garden at Nice, from which he realizes more per annum than from his pen.

The whole of Bayard Taylor's Centennial ode was published on the 8th of July by the London Times among its cable despatches.

HARRIET MARTINEAU'S autobiography, though it has been in print fifteen years or more, is not to be published for a few months, as it is to be accompanied by a supplementary volume, in which a friend will recount the later history of her life.

The late Prosper Merimée published, some fifty years ago, a volume of Servian songs, of whose authenticity only Goethe expressed doubts. In a second edition, Merimée confessed that these lyrics, so primitive in character and Servian in color, which he had entitled "La Giusia," (the giusla, a sort of mandoline or guitar, being the Servian instrument), were his own invention, as also was a Servian bard of very individual sort, who was supposed to have recited them. The French author had intended to visit Servia to study its poetry, but he had to the money, and to get it he wrote such ballads as he was sure must be sung there. Having succeeded so well in his object, he never undertook the formal journey.