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OUR NORTH-WEST TROUBLES.

The troubles in the North-West, especially in and around the course of the great Saskatchewan river, developed very suddenly into a very serious rebellion against the governing bodies of the country and took the great bulk of the Canadian people by surprise.

The extent of the revolt, although not very large at first, caused considerable uneasiness to the authorities at Ottawa, on account of the uncertainty as to the action of the Indian tribes, and the vast amount of country to be preserved from attack and preserved in peace should a general rising take place.

Great credit is undoubtedly due to the Government at Ottawa for dispatching quickly large bodies of well-equipped volunteers to the scene of action, which in a great measure prevented a general rising of many Indian tribes and saved our North-West from a great conflagration.

While going to press there is every indication that quietness and speedy settlement will be obtained, but it is more than likely that some troops will require to be stationed there for a few months before permanent peace is established and settlements made with the rebels and different Indian tribes.

We regret that a certain class in the country should have been so imprudent as to publicly demonstrate their sympathy with the rebels at a time when every effort should have been directed towards restoring peace and order, especially as it is pretty generally admitted and known that the grievances must be investigated without delay and just ones immediately set right.

There will, however, be ample time and opportunity after peace has been restored to champion the cause of the North-West half-breeds and Indians in a legal and constitutional spirit.

No doubt the Government will be bitterly attacked

and blamed for the causes which led to the rebellion, and will find it difficult enough to clear their skirts; still the country will uphold them in giving ample justice to those who have remained loyal and peaceable in the midst of the turmoil, notwithstanding their grievances, while to those who have plunged the country into serious expense for war preparations, punishment, in some form or other, should be first dealt, especially to the ring leaders and heads of the rebellion.

We sincerely hope, however, that the rebels will regret the steps they have taken, and will penitently promise to never again disturb the peace of a country, in which they, as well as all of us, hope and believe has a great future, if not imperilled by lawless acts.

FIRE INSURANCE.

From the Annual Reports of the various Fire Insurance Companies believed to do business in the Dominion, it appears that the business done was not wholly without profit to many of the companies but as a general showing the business for last year was not satisfactory enough to be ranked as a safe and suitable investment.

No doubt some of the Companies have large reserves to fall back upon, but with a constant drawing on these funds with the prospects ahead for profitable business it behoves those at the helm to consider every available means whereby expenditure of every kind can be diminished.

The losses are no doubt the most serious items of expenditure and not until a more vigorous and determined effort is made outside of their branch and head office by good practical and experienced experts to examine into the condition and value, etc. of risks, will there be anything like permanent and sound improvement.

COTTON seed is the southern bonanza. There are three and a half pounds of seed to every pound of fiber. More than 4,000,000 tons are produced annually, but, notwithstanding the rapid increase in the number of mills, only about ten per cent. of the seed is crushed, the rest being largely thrown away. A ton of seed yields 35 gallons of oil, 23 pounds of cotton, and 750 pounds of cake, used for fattening cattle. The value of these products is \$19. The oil is largely used for making fine soaps, and when refined properly can hardly be distinguished from olive oil, which it is superseding for many purposes.