

THE PRAIRIE.

(ILLUSTRATED)

WEEKLY JOURNAL OF INTEREST TO ALL.

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ERNEST BEAUFORT, Manager.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1891.

IT IS a well-known fact that Canadians are eagerly sought for by the large business houses in America as clerks, and many important and responsible positions all over that country are held by Canadians. Lieut. Stair's action in joining Stanley's African exploration is opening up another road to fame to Canadians, which speaks very highly for the estimation in which they are held. The British East Africa Company has made application through Lord Lorne for graduates of the Royal Canadian Military College, to enter the service in Africa. Some graduates have already tendered their services. The Company stipulates for a three years' engagement, offering a salary of 335, 390 and 450 rupees per month, respectively, for each of the three years, with a bonus of 150 rupees, and an increase of 50 rupees per month in salary upon passing an examination in the Swahili language, and approval of qualifications for the service. The Company pays the expenses of a first-class passage from Canada to Mombaza, and return upon termination of service, as well as travelling expenses during employ.

Taking the rupee to be worth 39 cents, this would give the graduate \$130.00 per month to start with, while at the end of the third year he would possess a salary of 175.50 per month which added to the increase of 50 rupees per month after the necessary qualification, would amount to \$194.00 per month, not a bad salary for a young man starting in life. The life in Africa is by no means a bed of roses and is one which calls for special qualifications, and that young Canadians are being specially selected for the

work of opening up, what will probably be found the richest continent on the globe's surface, should be a source of considerable pride and gratification to all Canadians.

THE state of Canada's trade for the year 1890 will no doubt interest all farmers and ranchers in the Northwest. Taken as a whole, the past year has not been an entirely prosperous one, which has been chiefly owing to the poor crops in Quebec and Manitoba, especially as regards wheat, which, in the latter province, promised well until just before reaping, when frost and wet did considerable damage. On the other hand, however, there was a considerable increase in the export of dairy products. The annual report of the Montreal Board of Trade states that the cattle trade showed an increase of over 40 per cent. in the number of animals shipped, but exporters state that it was not a profitable year for them. The value of exports was \$32,027,176, and of imports \$44,102,786, the customs dues being \$9,201,426. In the previous year the exports amounted to \$32,638,270, imports \$47,191,888 and duties \$9,321,981.

The McKinley bill caused farmers considerable alarm, and instead of holding on to their grain for a possible rise, they rushed the bulk of it on the market early in the season. However, the reviewers of the state of trade in Canada assert that on the whole farmers have been fairly prosperous during the past year, and the prospects of the present year appear to be good.

THE fact that Australia is entering the British market with her eggs should be a great encouragement to Canada to increase her trade in this important industry. If Australia can accomplish this, although her eggs must be six weeks old before they reach the market, surely Canada need not fear. The following figures will, however, show how keen the competition is; but this need not frighten Canada, as the British market is almost inexhaustible:

Last year France and Germany between them sent to the United Kingdom 714 millions of eggs; more than 200 millions came from Belgium, and nearly 75 millions from Russia; while from Portugal came two millions, and smaller quantities from Norway and Sweden, Morocco, Italy, Turkey, Egypt, Malta, and the Channel Islands.

Still, though Canada's rivals be many, the British market is large enough for all. The total British imports of eggs reached last year the enormous value of fifteen million dollars.