

READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

JAPANESE CAMPHOR.

An interesting account of the production and trade in camphor in Japan is contained in the last British consular report from Hiogo. The camphor tree of Japan is a huge evergreen of singularly symmetrical proportions and not unlike a Linden. Its blossom is a white flower, and it bears a red berry. Some of the trees are fully 15 feet in diameter, and are upwards of 300 years old. The annual export of Japan camphor averages about 5,000,000 pounds, of which about a quarter reaches the United States either direct or via Europe, the remainder being shipped to Europe, excepting a small quantity shipped to India. The districts in Japan famed for camphor trees are Kushu, Shikoku, Iga, Suruga, Ise, and Kishu. The forests owned by the people are now almost denuded of timber, and very little will be left a few years hence. But the Government forests are still very rich in camphor trees, and it has been estimated that these alone will maintain annually, during the next 25 years, the full average supply of crude camphor. Formerly very little care was bestowed upon the cultivation and preservation of this valuable timber. More recently, however, not only the Government, but also the people, have been giving to it the attention it long ago deserved. Numerous young trees have now been planted, and their growth is being carefully tended. Consequently, although hitherto the youngest wood from which camphor was extracted was about 70 or 80 years old, it is expected that, under present scientific management, the trees will give equally good results after 25 or 30 years. The roots contain a much larger proportion of camphor than the trees, 101 pounds of crude camphor out of 200 pounds of wood-chips being thought satisfactory. The Suruga timber yields a much smaller percentage. In a village in Tosa there is a group of 13 trees about 100 years old. It has been estimated that they will produce 40,000 pounds of crude camphor, and are worth, as they now stand, £1,000 silver dollars. It appears that the process of extracting camphor from the wood among the mountains and the materials used are of the roughest and most unscientific description. The wood-chips are boiled, the vapour being conducted into a receptacle containing several partitions surrounded by cold water. In the sides of these partitions are apertures alternating in contrary directions, which when open cause the vapour to fill the divisions by a circuitous route, thus improving the growth of the camphor. The crude article is brought to market in very rude wooden tubs. To make it fit for shipment, requires much work and experience. Each tub is carefully sampled vertically and diagonally, and the samples are tested by fire and sometimes by alcohol. If no solid adulterant is discovered, the condition of the drug is next ascertained, for crude camphor contains a quantity of water, or oil and water varying between 5 and 20 per cent. The rest of the work is comparatively easy, and consists in weighing, cutting, mixing, and packing for shipment, the packing being in tubs prepared on the premises partly out of the original packages.—Times.

In British India the ancient Brahmanic religious belief still counts 211,000,000 in its different sects. The Buddhist form of belief is held by 7,000,000 in Farther India (Burmah), not in India proper. The ancient faith of Zoroaster, dating back to the time of Cyrus and Darius, is professed by 90,000, who bear the name of Parsee or Persian. The followers of Mohammed number 57,000,000; the Emperors of India has a far greater number of Mohammedan subjects than the Sultan or the Shah. The ancient pagan or nature worshippers number 9,000,000.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

PUBLIC OPINION.

Montreal Gazette: The Glengarry Patrons of Industry have put a candidate in the field for the Ontario Legislature, in opposition to Mr. Rayside, despite the strenuous efforts of the Ontario government supporters in the press and elsewhere to show that the platform of the Patrons and that of the Liberals are practically the same. It looks as if the farmers were doing their own thinking this year.

Manitoba Free Press: In some quarters it is to be feared our new Governor-General will be accused of trenching on controversial ground, when he ventures to deal with the question of dual languages. But in this respect he has the support of precedent, as Lord Stanley, on more than one occasion, referred to it in his speeches and advised toleration much in the same spirit as Lord Aberdeen does now.

Victoria Colonist: It appears that our Victoria contemporary has not yet heard that in the East joint political meetings have gone out of fashion. The Times, it seems, requires to be told that in these days each party has its own meetings; and no politician of standing or character thinks of obtruding himself on the meetings of his opponents. Joint meetings are now and then held under special circumstances, but when they are, it is by agreement of the parties concerned.

Halifax Critic: There is something which is wholly satisfying to a business man in the recreation of country life, and of late many business men have been attracted to the country for business reasons. The possibilities opening before our Provincial fruit growers have induced many to engage in the work, yet there is room for more. The figures which are compiled by our fruit growers would indicate enormous returns. Orchards which were set out in 1889 are already making money for their owners. In some sections in the Cornwallis Valley the crops of plums, crab-apples, etc., are estimated at \$600 per acre, leaving, when the cost of fertilizing, cultivating, spraying, gathering and marketing is deducted, a profit of \$435 per acre. We hear much of the fruitful vineyards of France and of Southern Italy; but, if these figures are correct, the plum and apple orchards of our Province must be much more productive and profitable.

St. John Gazette: Canadian dairy products and live stock, by carrying off the most and the best of the honours at the World's Fair, will help to make the world understand the richness of our soil; and the products of petroleum, in equal measure will also advertise the vast wealth of our country in both these great resources. Only in the oil country around Petrolia has there been any development yet of Canada's oil fields. The Northwest is believed to contain a supply equal to the demands of many centuries to come. It will be noted with satisfaction that the specimens of coal from Canada which received medals at Chicago came from the Northwest and British Columbia. This fact may attract capital to the examination of the numerous western coal fields, which have heretofore been considered too distant from large consuming centres to be capable of profitable operation. It is, however, altogether likely that a proper appreciation of the quality of the western coal would explode the objections of the past. The Chicago awards are doubly valuable to this end. Coal first and petroleum afterwards must provide the fuel of the succeeding ages. Canada's turn must soon come.

Console yourself, dear man and brother; whatever you may be sure of, be sure at least of this that you are dreadfully like other people. Human nature has a much greater genius for sameness than for originality.—Lowell.

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A PLEASANT SURPRISE.

The following is but one of the many letters the North American Life Assurance Company of this city has received from holders of matured investment policies:

Montreal, Sept. 22, 1893.
To the Directors of the North American Life Assurance Company, Toronto:
Gentlemen: In 1883 I insured in your company for \$1,000, life plan, with an investment period of ten years, annual premium being \$24.30. Having overlooked that the investment period expired this year, it was an agreeable surprise to be advised I was entitled to profits, but a greater surprise when I learned how satisfactory they are. My contract provides four options. If I surrender policy for its cash value, \$193.78, my insurance would have cost only \$49.72, being at the rate of \$4.97 per year. I mention this option as illustrating how cheaply protection can be secured for a term of years by your investment policies. I have decided, however, to continue my policy, and take my profits, amounting to \$73.98, in cash, a sum more than sufficient to pay the next three years' premiums. If applied in that way. I am more than satisfied with the results, and would like to increase my insurance, but regret my inability to do so.

With best wishes for the future prosperity of your company, I am, yours truly,
HENRY HILL.

Man may content himself with the applause of the world, and the homage paid to his intellect; but woman's heart has holier idols.—George Eliot.

God hides some ideal in every human soul. At some time in our life we feel a trembling, fearful longing to do some good thing. Life finds its noblest spring of excellence in this hidden impulse to do our best.—Robert Collyer.

C. C. RICHARDS & CO.

Gents,—My daughter was suffering terribly with neuralgia. I purchased a bottle of MINARD'S LINIMENT and rubbed her face thoroughly. The pain left her and she slept well till morning. Next night another attack, another application resulted as previously, with no return since. Grateful feelings determined me to express myself publicly. I would not be without MINARD'S LINIMENT in the house at any cost.

J. H. BAILEY,
Parkdale, Ont