

New Settlements in Alberta.

J. E. Forslund and J. Toole, of the C.P.R. land department, have been making an extended tour through the Scandinavian and German settlements in northern Alberta. From Wetaskiwin they visited the Swedish settlement at Red Deer lake, south of Battle river, the German settlement at Bear's lake, southwest of Wetaskiwin, the new Norwegian settlements at Crooked lake, northeast of Wetaskiwin and south of Beaver lake, the German settlement in the Beaver hills east of Fort Saskatchewan, the German settlements on Stony Plain, south of Rabbit hills, and east and south of Leduc. They also visited the Parry Sound colony of Canadians, south of Fort Saskatchewan. They found the Parry Sound people well pleased and getting comfortably fixed, having had good crops. Also the German settlements east of Fort Saskatchewan, Stony Plain and south of Rabbit hill. These colonies have been established two and three years, and the people are contented and prosperous. The German settlement east of Leduc had good crops, but is newer, and some of the late settlers are very poor, but will pull through. The Norwegian settlements are both from Minnesota and were only started last fall, but the settlers are well pleased with their prospects. The Swedish settlement at Red Deer lake, has not done as well as was hoped, as most of the settlers were from manufacturing towns in New England and to some extent unsuited to pioneer life. However, they are progressing and no doubt will be all right shortly.

Arid Lands of the Western States.

The Engineering Record says: "The annual irrigation convention which was recently held at Hutchinson, Kan., showed by the number of its attendants and the character of the matter which was brought before it, the earnestness with which people immediately interested in the development of the enormous arid region of the west are dealing with a public question whose agitation has already resulted in much material advantage, and whose complete solution is bound to yield great wealth in many extensive sections of the country characterized now by absolute sterility. One of the speakers, Mr. J. S. Emery, presented some features of the subject in a very forcible and striking manner. Probably every intelligent person realizes, what has often been stated during the past few years, that great tracts of land west of about the ninety-seventh meridian are either absolutely sterile or unfit for agricultural purposes in consequence of the fact that they cannot be watered. Probably very few imagine that the total area of that arid or semi-arid region is equal to about one-half of the total area of the United States, with the exception of Alaska, but such is the fact. It is well known that a very large portion, perhaps even the greater portion, of this unproductive region will apparently never be productive, for the reason that there seem to be no sources of water available for its irrigation. But, on the other hand, many portions of it still unoccupied may have imparted to them almost unequalled fertility by the application of available water. Although this question of irrigation is no new one, and has been frequently considered in the columns of many technical journals and in other publications, the functions of such bodies as that of the convention at Hutchinson will for many years to come find a very extensive field for their employment. Indeed, the material development of much of the arid and semi-arid lands of the western portion of the country will depend largely upon them and upon the irrigation engineering bodies, which have already attained vigorous growth.

"As pointed out by Judge Emery to the convention, the United States has first and

last paid about \$35,000,000 for the acquisition of territory largely arid or semi arid, and the transformation of that region into a wealth-producing country through the means of irrigation processes, applied by the people who inhabit it is a simple business necessity if the investment is to be justified. While the rather rosy prediction contained in Judge Emery's address before this convention to the effect that the highest civilization in the United States is to be found in the future in what is now the arid regions of the west, including the Pacific coast, may not be completely realized, there is no question about the fact that what is now quite unproductive territory will in the near future be rendered a source of great wealth to those who occupy it through the effects of irrigation, and through those effects only."

How the Premium was Paid.

A great variety of money is in circulation in Newfoundland. The inhabitants are a thrifty people, coming from many lands, and money in any shape is acceptable. The agent of the Mutual Life of New York in a small town in Newfoundland sends through General Agent J. A. Johnson a very interesting letter relative to a premium recently paid the company, and the following memoranda:

DIFFERENT COINS RECEIVED IN PAYMENT OF A PREMIUM AT ONE OF THE COMPANY'S AGENCIES IN NEWFOUNDLAND.

	Value in American money.	Date of coin.
1 doubloon	\$15 50	1788
1 half doubloon	7 75	1780
3 quarterdoublons at \$3.80	11 40	1788
1 eighth doubloon	1 90	1841
2 ten marks at \$2.38	4 76	1872
1 American gold piece	2 50	1851
1 Newfoundland piece	2 00	1870
5 Spanish pieces at 20c.	1 00	1778
1 Spanish piece	25	1801
2 Greek drachma at 19.8c.	36.6	1822
2 two francs, one Italian, one French at 86c.	72	8716
1 crown	26.8	8751
1 mark	23.8	1871
3 half francs at 8c.	24	1887
1 8d.	16	1822
1 twenty centime	05	1867
1 ten centime	02	1868
4 two centime	04	1878
3 halfpennies	01.5	1851
	\$49 19.7	

The agent's letter accompanying this document says:—

"Dear Sir.—We are apt to receive a good many kinds of money in some of the remote places here in Newfoundland. Having canvassed one man until I had almost given him up, on his plea that he had 'no money,' he said at last (turning to his wife): 'You may as well bring down the sackings,' and when that stocking came with its shining mass of stuff poured down upon the table, I wondered if I could tell whether I had enough for the premium or not. Attached please find memo different kinds of specie paid me for the premium. I hardly knew whether I had \$30 or \$60. I invested in a small pocket book to put the premium in, to show the friends how business is done here. Will keep it until I return."

Silver.

The strength of India exchange influences the silver market, and caused a recovery in the London quotations for bars. Demands for silver for the East, however, are not noticeably large. Silver prices on Dec. 21 were: London, 27½d; New York, 60½c.

Territory Beef in Montreal.

Notwithstanding the large supply of live cattle that has been on the market during the past two weeks, Messrs. Bickerdike and Lunington, who are agents here for the Northwest Trading company, of Calgary, report the demand for Northwest dressed beef as being good, they having disposed of about \$10,000 worth in four weeks. This is no doubt due to its fine quality and the low prices at which it is being offered at. Messrs. Bickerdike and Lunington made a contract with the Longue Pointe asylum here to supply them with beef, pork and poultry to the amount of \$1,500. Col. Richardson, manager of the Northwest Trading company, was in the city this week, and called upon their agents and expressed himself as being well satisfied with the amount of business already done, and stated that they may expect one car load of beef a week from this on.—Gazette Dec. 21.

The Duty on Iron Pipe.

"The United States manufacturers of iron pipe seem bound to capture the Canadian market, if prices will do it," remarked an importer, "Quotations are daily coming in which make it impossible for Canadian manufacturers to compete with them. With the protection, however, which the Canadian manufacturers have, it seems to me they ought to be able to contend against the foreign market. This protection is 60 per cent., and even at this ratio the Collector of Customs will not permit pipe to be passed at invoice figures. I mean they will not allow full discounts. For instance, if the invoice calls for a discount of 50 per cent. and four tens, the Customs authorities will only allow three tens, or 50 and two tens, just as they see fit. To further illustrate. Take a bill of \$1,000 worth of pipe. If they do not allow you the last two tens you are forced to pay \$1,200, which means that the purchaser pays \$200 more than his invoice actually calls for and \$100 more duty than the tariff calls for.

"While this may seem right and just for some, the consumer can scarcely be expected to see eye to eye with them."
 "Do the Customs authorities advance any reason for taking the view you say they do?"
 "None whatever, as far as I know. Although the invoices are produced and certified to by the firms from whom they come as being correct, yet they will not allow their face value."—Toronto Hardware.

Our Empire

The British Empire is a political creation unparalleled in the world's history, not only by its extent and population, in both which respects it is slightly surpassed by China, but because, with an area of more than 10,000,000 square miles and with 352,000,000 inhabitants, it is scattered over the whole globe. It embraces all zones, from the icy wilderness of Hudson Bay to the tropical jungles of India and the mahogany forests of Honduras, there is scarcely a product which a British province does not bring forth in excellent quality; and not less various are the degrees of civilization of its inhabitants, from the Kaffirs at the Cape to the highly cultured citizens of Toronto or Sydney. We find, with Christians of all confessions 200,000,000 Hindus, about 70,000,000 Mohammedans, and 8,000,000 Buddhists, and the Bible is printed in 130 languages and dialects represented in the empire, yet, notwithstanding such promiscuous elements, the government, with rare exceptions, maintains order, and no sign of dissolution is visible.—Forum.