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No. 8

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page.
A Statistical Age	339	Insurance against Unemployment	347
Harbor Development in Canada	340	The Proposed Subways	348
Subways for Montreal	341	Among the Companies	350
Baby Bonds	341	Among the Banks	353
Editorial Comments	342	Insurance Notes	355
Sidelights	342	Recent Fires	356
Gas and Oil Fields of New Brunswick	343	Montreal Wholesale Markets	357
In the Limelight	346	Financial and Business Notes	359

A STATISTICAL AGE.

Some interesting statistics have just been issued by the American Statistical Association on the 75th anniversary of its formation. While these relate very largely to the United States and consequently are of greater interest to the people of that republic, there is much in the information that can be made use of by Canada. This country stands to-day where the United States stood a century ago, in as far as population is concerned. We are all familiar with the statement of Sir Wilfrid Laurier that "the 20th century belongs to Canada." The 19th witnessed the development of the United States, but the 20th will witness a like or greater expansion on the part of the Canadian people. Looking back, therefore, over the past 75 or 100 years in the history of the neighboring republic, the Canadian people can find landmarks and mile posts which will be of the utmost service to them if they will but chose to give heed.

Unless all the signs fail, Canada will develop more rapidly in the next one hundred years than the United States did in the past one hundred. In the first place, we have nearly 30,000 miles of completed railroad, and over half that amount building. These iron bands girding the continent will do more to

distribute our immigrants and bring out their produce than was possible a century ago in the United States where they had no railroads and where settlement was necessarily very slow. In addition, our prairie lands are spoken of as "the Last Great West." The land hungry of Europe are realising more and more that a golden opportunity awaits them in Canada, and are coming here in ever increasing numbers. In addition to our railroad expansion and to the fact that we offer the last opportunity for free lands, other means are being taken to attract settlers, such as by advertising, by lecturing tours, through exhibitions and by numerous other methods.

The drift from country to city about which we are complaining so much in Canada was repeated in an earlier age in the United States. Prior to 1840 three-fourths of the American population was engaged in agriculture. In 1910, nearly half of the population were in cities and towns of 5,000 and over. Another significant fact brought out by the Statistical Association was that in 1890 the American people cultivated for all cereals 240 acres per 1,000 people. Twenty years later this was reduced to 208 acres per 1,000 people, yet in that period the