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Canada's Water Power.

At a recent meeting of the Royal Society in Ottawa there was presented by Mr. T. C. Keefer, the president of the society, a paper on The Water Power of Canada, which has attracted considerable attention. Water power which in the past has played so important a part in the development of the natural resources and the industries of countries, seems likely to become even more important in the future. The application of steam to machinery has had the effect of causing water power to be in a measure disregarded. But for the production of steam vast quantities of fuel are required, and though the world's supply of fuel has been and still is immense, it is perhaps not inexhaustible, and therefore it may be necessary to take more account of the power which in the cataract and in the swift-flowing stream is perpetually offering its services to men, and which needs only to be properly harnessed in order to drive the wheels of industry. The fact that, by the advance of practical science, it has now become possible to transmute this water power into electrical energy and transmit it to considerable distances, adds largely to the area in which the natural motive force of falling water can be applied, and accordingly makes the possession of a great and well-distributed water power a matter of great importance to a country. Mr. Keefer showed that Canada was highly favored in this respect, being characterized by a continuous chain of lakes and rivers, extending over an area of several thousand miles in length and several hundred miles in breadth. The falls and cataracts in many Canadian rivers, while they impede navigation, are reservoirs, or rather channels, of an energy which needs only to be harnessed in order to be utilized. From the Straits of Belle Isle to Montreal the number of rivers capable of furnishing such potency, it was shown, is immense. The rivers all possessed great power, the elevation in many places being 1,800 feet above the tide. The Montmorency Falls, with a fall of over 200 feet, were used to furnish electrical power to the city of Quebec, an illustration of the utility of water power in generating electrical force. In like manner could the rapids of the waterfalls of the Ottawa, St. Lawrence, Winnipeg, Fraser and Yukon rivers be used. Electricity was more and more coming into general use, and by its numerous resources Canada was in the front rank of economical power-producing countries. Water was an ideal producer of electrical force, while the product itself was cheap, safe and clean. The substitution of electricity for steam on railroads was inevitable, the chief obstacle in the way being that the larger roads now had millions invested in locomotives. It was confidently asserted that a speed of one hundred miles per hour could be attained with ease without the poisonous smoke now so objectionable in connection with railway travelling. It is stated that Mr. Keefer's paper will be published by the Society and distributed.

Canada and Her Accusers.

We made reference last week to certain anonymous despatches emanating from Washington and representing that the failure of the Anglo-American Conference to arrive at a settlement of the Alaskan boundary question and other matters in dispute was chargeable to the unreasonable attitude of Canada. Besides these anonymous despatches, a cabled letter appeared last week in the 'London Times' from its New York correspondent, Mr. G. W. Smalley, in which letter similar sentiments are expressed. This correspondent represents that all the concessions have been upon the part of the United States, and that an adjustment of the Alaska boundary difficulty

had about been arrived at when, as a result of pressure from Canada, Lord Salisbury demanded again all that Canada had ever asked for in the conferences. Various comments of the London press upon Mr. Smalley's letter are quoted in despatches, but according to Mr. Henry Norman, London correspondent of the 'New York Times,' the best British opinion is voiced by the 'London Times' when it says that it will be time enough to pronounce a definite opinion on the attitude of the Canadians and the Imperial Government when we have their account of these transactions before us. Mr. Norman also makes the suggestion that the whole correspondence and negotiations in the matter be published. "This," he says, "is essentially a matter in which the public opinion of both countries ought to be allowed to make itself felt. If publication showed that Mr. Smalley's account of the British Canadian action is accurately inspired, a sharp expression of public opinion would follow here. England does not propose to sacrifice any Canadian rights, but quite certainly the British people would severely disapprove of the support of Canada in any obstructive action for merely partizan purposes." It may be noted here that a Washington correspondent of the London 'Morning Post,' who would seem to speak with semi-official authority, characterizes as 'absolutely untrue' the statements intimating that the State Department officials have represented the Alaskan boundary dispute as hopeless. "The administration," he declares, "has been exceedingly annoyed by the attempts made to obstruct an agreement and hopes that no credence will be given to newspaper articles circulating such rumors. Both President McKinley and Secretary Hay hope that Sir Julian Pauncefote will return to Washington with such instructions from Lord Salisbury as will ensure the speedy settlement of the matter." Replying a few days ago to a question in connection with this subject, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, speaking in the House of Commons, alluded to the series of articles which had been appearing in the American press which showed there was an evident attempt on the part of some parties to create the impression that Canada had taken an unreasonable stand. He did not agree with those who placed the blame for these on the American authorities, for the simple reason that they knew differently. The condition of affairs was the same today as it was when the conference adjourned. There had been no change and would be none. While he was not at present in a position to state the position taken on the boundary question at the conference, he hoped that before prorogation he would be in a position to do so without giving away any secrets. However, he thought he could now state that the general claims were based on the treaty of 1825 between Russia and Great Britain; the Canadians said the boundary should be calculated on the basis of the crests of the nearest mountains whether that led through bays on the coast or not, and the Americans contending that in all cases their territory should extend beyond salt water. Finding it impossible to settle the question by compromise the Canadians proposed arbitration. It was simply suggested that the arbitrations should be exactly on the lines adopted in the Venezuelan arbitration. All statements coupled with other conditions were erroneous.

Mount Allison.

After what appears to have been a year of prosperity and good work, the Mount Allison schools last week held anniversary exercises of a highly interesting character. The College graduated, with the degree of B. A., a class of twenty-two, of whom four are ladies. Of the 22 graduates 12 are from New Brunswick, 4 from Nova Scotia, 2 from Ontario, 2 from Newfoundland, one from P. E. Island and one from Maine. The class was led by a lady, Miss Julia Truman Colpitts, of Point de Bute. In connection with the Ladies' Academy—or Ladies' College as we perceive it is now coming to be called—much attention is paid to Music and Painting, and the school attracts a large number of students. In his report presented at the closing exercises, Principal Borden stated that there had been in attendance during the year 103 boarders and 87 day pupils. Seven pupils this year completed the M. L. A. course; four have completed the piano course leading to a teacher's diploma; two have completed the teacher's course for

voice-building, and one has completed the artist's course. In speaking of the needs of the school Dr. Borden alluded to a new brick or stone Ladies' College building as something not within reach just at present, but which must come in the not distant future. He hinted that it might be in 1904, when the institution will have completed fifty years of beneficent work. Dr. Borden also wants chairs endowed in the Conservatory of Music and in the Fine Arts department, which will enable the management to pay adequate salaries for the highest order of talent in those departments. Among new features being introduced is a bicycle track for the young ladies, which the generosity of Senator Wood is making possible and which will afford the students a needed and valuable means of physical exercise. About \$300 has been spent during the year in the purchase of books for the College Library, and some 150 new volumes have been placed upon its shelves.

The Peace Conference.

According to the daily despatches from The Hague, the various committees of the Peace Conference have been engaged during the week in elaborating proposals to be submitted to the Conference as a whole. The statements thus put forth cannot be accepted as certainly correct, but they probably reflect in a general way the doings of the Conference. From the despatches it appears that arbitration is the prominent subject of discussion, and that in connection with which there is the best hope of valuable results. The proposals by the Russian representatives on this subject appear to be accepted as a basis of discussion. The Russian proposal, it is said, declares arbitration to be the most efficacious and equitable way of settling questions regarding the international application of treaties, and commends it in such cases as affect neither vital interests nor national honor. Then, after setting forth that each state remains the sole judge of what cases are so to be submitted to arbitration, it is suggested that a large number of cases, such as questions of pecuniary damage and disagreements in the application of treaties or conventions affecting commercial, postal, navigation, currency, sanitary and copyright matters and the like, not affecting vital interests or national honor, are those in which arbitration should be obligatory. In all other cases, says the Russian scheme, arbitration, though recommended by the present act, can only be applied on the spontaneous initiative of one of the parties in dispute and with the express consent of the other parties. With a view to facilitating recourse to arbitration it is proposed that the signatory powers agree to formulate a common arrangement for the employment of international arbitration and for the fundamental principles to be observed in drawing up rules of procedure to be followed pending inquiry into the dispute and the pronouncement of the arbitrators' decision. The Russian proposal, it is stated, also provides for the creation of a Court of Investigation to enquire into and advise upon international difficulties which cannot be settled by ordinary diplomatic methods. It is not proposed that the report of such a commission should have the force of an arbitration judgment, but leave the conflicting parties at full liberty either to conclude a friendly arrangement on the basis of said report or to have recourse to arbitration by concluding an agreement *ad hoc*, or else by resorting to active measures allowable in the mutual relations between nations. A correspondent of the 'London Standard,' writing from The Hague on Wednesday, says: "An important advance was made today in the direction of a scheme of arbitration combining the Russian, British and American proposals. The representatives of these nations arrived at an agreement which seems to find general acceptance. Sir Julian Pauncefote conferred this afternoon with Mr. Seth Low and Mr. Holls, and both the British and American proposals were examined with the result that the United States will support the Pauncefote scheme for a permanent tribunal. In all practical and essential features the British and American plans are identical, but the American delegates have gone further, covered the whole field of arbitration and drafted provisions for a rehearing in the event of a disagreement. Later advices say that the American mediation scheme, with a few amendments, has been unanimously adopted by the sub-committee.