

Topics of the Day

AT HOME.

THE CENSUS.

Young Canadians probably hear their friends talk a good deal about the Census; and, if they read the newspapers, they will see something more on the same subject. They may therefore want to know, and it is but right that they should know, what all this talk is about. Well, the census is a numbering of all the people in Canada. It is necessary, for many purposes besides mere curiosity, to know exactly how many people there are in the country. But as some are dying, while others are being born every day, and some are leaving, while newcomers are constantly arriving to take their place, it is impossible to tell the precise number of the people at any time except by actually counting them. So every ten years men are sent round the whole country to count the number of the people, and this counting is called a *census*.

While the men are counting the people, they find out a good many things besides their number. For instance, they ask the age of everybody, the country where they were born, the church they belong to, and so on; while they also find out how many people are blind, how many deaf, and other facts of interest.

You may well believe that it takes a great many counters to go over all the country to get this information. Even though our population is not very large, it took more than four thousand men to count; but in countries with more people the number required is much greater. Britain, for example, takes ten times as many as Canada. British India, again, had nearly a million counters; but then its population comes up almost to three hundred millions.

Everybody seems surprised and disappointed because our population is so small. Of course, all Canadians, and young Canadians especially, want to grow into a great nation: and it was generally taken for granted that we were growing much faster than the census shows. Many expected to find our numbers over six millions, while it turns out that they are under five. It seems clear that we *ought* to have grown more rapidly than we have done; for evidently many have left the country whom we should have retained, and we have not succeeded in attracting as many people from other countries as we should have liked. What is the cause of this, it would take a wise head to tell with certainty; but there is one thing clear, and that is this, that all Canadians, young and old, should unite in making their country as attractive as possible, both to its present inhabitants and to newcomers, so that, when the next census comes to be taken, ten years hence, we may have reason to rejoice over our growing numbers and our growing prosperity.

SUPPOSE.

Suppose, my little lady,
Your doll should break her head;
Could you make it whole by crying
Till your eyes and nose were red?
And wouldn't it be pleasanter
To treat it as a joke,
And say you're glad 'twas dolly's,
And not your head that broke?

THE SECRET OF SUCCESS FOR OUR BOYS.

HEAVEN HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES.

Let no young Canadian despise the lot in which he is actually placed. Let him think twice before he forsakes the farm for the town, the workshop for a profession. The great procession of our successful men comes from the ranks of patient, persevering work. The large majority of our men at the tops of our trees have not come there by chance, much less by birth. The metal out of which our young nation shall be built lies more in raising our occupation to our own earnest level than in a false notion about imaginary levels of labour. Though we hear more of the captain than of the private, it is the private's work and not the captain's that tells. The unwritten life, the *unsung history*, is, after all, the backbone of national strength. Every young Canadian who does his best where he is—just where he is—and makes himself an indispensable factor in his own peculiar circumstances, does more for the realization of a grand future for Canada than if he broke free and rushed madly after deeds of prominent service. The inspiration of his character, the influence of his industry, live and grow to all time.

Alas! that there are two sides to the picture! That the inspiration of his unmanliness, and the influence of his idleness, should also live and grow to all time!

Conscientious work is the great school of success. It is the training for the top of the commercial tree. Great men are not secured from great men. They are created from great workers. Luxury enfeebles. Difficulties sharpen the intellect. A steadfast purpose, an unconquerable perseverance, carry everything before them.

In my talks with my boys, this will be my key-note. Let them learn it well. Let them accept it once and for good. Then let us see how we can apply it to the various trades and professions.

UNCLE DICK.

THE ENGLISH FLAG IN THE UNITED STATES.

Most people have heard of the American Arctic explorer, Dr. Kane, but few know that the English flag was carried through the streets of Philadelphia, at his funeral, for the first time since the old days of the Revolution, when the United States became an independent country. It happened in this manner. At the time of Dr. Kane's death some Englishmen were residing in Philadelphia, and they thought that, in consideration of Dr. Kane's efforts in behalf of Sir John Franklin, some mark of respect should be shown by the English residents. Accordingly, application was made to the authorities for permission to carry the English flag in the funeral procession. This being granted, the next thing was to obtain a flag, but this was difficult; the one at the consulate was old and shabby, and there were but few English vessels in the harbor. Just as one or two of them were wondering what they should do, an English vessel, with a handsome standard flying, was seen in the distance. Two of the Englishmen immediately got into a small boat, went alongside the vessel, and made their request to the captain, that he would lend them his flag to carry at the funeral. The captain not only lent his flag, but he lent two of his sailors to carry it, and the English flag, borne by English sailors, formed an interesting feature in the funeral train of the American explorer.

The ravages of intemperance are greater than the combined ravages of war, pestilence and famine.