

It is stated, on apparently good authority, that 600,000 acres of land were conveyed to 4,000 actual settlers in Manitoba last year, the population being thus increased by 17,000 souls. There are prospects of a larger growth of the population this year.

Few atrocities are more repugnant to men of feeling than the dastardly infliction of torture on defenceless animals, especially when the diabolical cruelty is perpetrated out of revenge. It is an infinite satisfaction to find such a case dealt with with righteous & verity, as in a recent instance in the United States, in which one of these fiends was sentenced to three years penal servitude for having cut the tongue out of a horse. It is to be hoped that the sentence will serve as a warning. The S. P. C. A. deserves every credit, and Judge Staples every honor.

The following quotation from an Ontario contemporary is worth noting: "The stir that is being made by the nurserymen in the United States is a timely illustration of our remarks on the meaning our neighbors put upon 'reciprocity.' As they find that Canada can send to them seeds and young trees, they no longer desire the reciprocal freedom from duty which they begged last spring, when they thought the 'reciprocity' in nursery goods would be all on one side. They have no wish to reciprocate where they cannot get the best of the bargain for themselves."

The Chicago *Canadian American* is a paper as remarkable as it is excellent—remarkable because it achieves with success the difficult part of being loyal to the United States, and loyal to the sentiments of the true Canadians it represents. In carrying out this role it never hesitates to speak plain truth to Uncle Sam, and we notice with pleasure that in its issue of the 18th ultimo, it reproduces, "For Uncle Samuel's Ears" as its heading runs, the famous speech of Dr. Beers, at the Dental Societies' banquet at Syracuse, N. Y. Dr. Beers' speech ought to be in the hands of every Canadian from Sambro to Nootka.

The *Toronto Globe*, spreading itself on the dismissal of Mr. Ross, (which we in common with numbers, sincerely regret) has the following sentence, which would be astonishing if its American proclivities were not so well known:—"It may be said that our neighbors when they heard of the case jumped to the conclusion that Ottawa meant to concede transshipment in bond. What harm if they did? Nothing could have been easier than to inform Washington that the Collector had somewhat exceeded his authority. Such a notification, coupled with an *amiabile* assurance that the Canadian authorities wished to deal as gently as possible with visiting fishermen might have had beneficial results on international relations." This is all very well, but we have ample experience that amiability is entirely thrown away on hungry bears.

We have seen it stated that the population of the N. W. increased by only 40,000 from 1878 to 1888. The *Toronto Globe*, always enamored of things American, is profoundly impressed with some recent efforts of settlement in Kentucky, and proceeds to draw doleful comparisons of that of our North-West. Such settlement as there is it puts as having cost a little less than \$100,000,000, out of which it sets down, in round numbers, \$62,000,000 for the C. P. R., \$11,000,000, for Indians, \$5,000,000 for Immigration, and \$5,000,000 for "putting down rebellion caused by vicious Government." The last is a very stale and soapy "chesnut," and some of the other items are misty. But it arrives at the conclusion that we have planted 160,000 settlers there. This is, however, somewhat of an improvement, take it altogether, on the 40,000 in the last ten years.

The statistically brilliant progress and prosperity of Queensland are not without serious drawbacks. The public debt is enormous. But a worse feature is the development of a factious, discontented and aggressive spirit which, wherever it is allowed scope, must be a disturbing influence inimical to the peaceful prosecution of industrial pursuits. Rapid progress seems very intoxicating to new Colonies. Accordingly, Queensland is cursed with a faction which aims at separation, and which at present seems to be dominant, and neglects no opportunity of inventing grievances to further its end. So far as we know, Queensland, as represented by these malcontents—who have no real grivance—does not possess the sympathies of the other great Colonies. But the situation, and the illustrations of it, are so curious and, as we think, so interesting, that as their length excludes them from our news or editorial spaces, we give them, in the shape of an article from an English exchange, in our "contribution column."

The correspondent of the *New York Tribune* is on the top of the fence flapping his wings and crowing. He opines that Lord Salisbury knows Mr. Phelps "would naturally have remained here (London) another two months. The foreign office people know it too, and they know that Mr. Phelps goes home because the British Legation at Washington is vacant. This useful knowledge will gradually filter down into the general English mind. It will be understood here, by the time Mr. Phelps steps on board the steamer at Southampton, that the diplomatic affront offered the American government by Lord Salisbury has been resented in a correct diplomatic way." This is very startling no doubt, but probably the "general English mind" agrees with us in thinking that Lord Salisbury would have been unwisely tame had he sent an ambassador to be, quite possibly, insulted by an officially moribund President and Secretary of State, whose undignified haste to be angry, not to say brutal, in the case of Lord Sackville has covered them with contempt. Meanwhile the Lord Mayor has banquetted Mr. Phelps, and all England, though he has been in no way lax or irresolute in his diplomacy, seems glad to do him personal honor.

It would appear that we have really got the true story of the capture of Khartoum and the death of Gordon, from Demetrio Gorgio, a Greek, who saved himself and a friend by means of two uniforms of the Madhi's service given him, as he states, by an Arab friend. It seems that Gordon had neglected to fortify certain gaps in his lines, and the situation was betrayed to the Madhi by a treacherous Pasha in whom Gordon had full confidence. The Madhi's orders were to take Gordon alive, but the ferocious officers sent, slew him with indignity as he handed them his sword. He might have saved himself up to the last moment, but declined. It is another example of the evil influence of religious fanaticism on practical efficiency. Gordon's soldiership and vigilance were evidently impaired by it, though we can never forget that his death, and the slaughter of his garrison, lie at the doors of the Ministry, (always inane in foreign policy) which deliberately shilly-shallied for months, and delayed relief, which might have come in ample time, till it was just too late.

The affairs and present aggressive attitude of Queensland are becoming of so much general interest that we shall, from time to time, give some particulars of that dependency, and details of some of the questions and squabbles which are agitating her. Erected into a separate colony in 1859, she has certainly evinced a progress almost unprecedented. At the end of 1887 her population already numbered 377,000. She had 1765 miles of railway opened, with 653 more in course of construction or authorized. Her stock consisted of 306,000 horses, 4,474,000 cattle, 13,000,000 sheep, and 74,000 pigs. She had 716 post offices, and 16,000 miles of telegraph wires, 519 state schools, with 1471 teachers, and an average daily attendance of 35,319 children, besides 116 private schools with 7,350, and 7 grammar schools with 675 pupils. She had also 48 hospitals, affording relief to 12,500 patients, and 6 orphan asylums maintaining 1135 children. Her banking deposits were \$43,540,000, besides \$7,130,000 in the hands of the Government Savings Banks. Her shipping was, entered inwards 2,147, outwards 2,183. She has also a quite respectable defensive land force. This is truly a marvellous showing, but there would appear to be a good deal below the surface not quite so pleasant to dive into.

There are two reforms in the Militia Service of Canada which in all justice cry aloud for consideration and adoption. One is the retiring allowances of staff-officers. When a man has spent 25 or 30 of the best years of his life in the conscientious discharge of important military functions, it is not just that he should be dismissed at the age of 63 with the paltry gratuity of two or three years' pay of his rank. There is not now a single inefficient officer on the Canadian staff, which is by no means too numerous. There are cases of two D. A. G.'s and several Brigade Majors, who are Militia officers pure and simple. These gentlemen served their country many years as unpaid Militia officers before they obtained staff appointments, and every one knows that a Regimental officer serves at considerable cost and sacrifice to himself. This consideration strengthens the case. The other point is that of the D. A. G.'s. There is no question that they ought to hold the rank of Colonel. We would go the length of saying, that of Brigadier. Their functions are most important, and their commands are more than equal to many a Division of the British Army which, theoretically, and mostly in practice, is the command of a Lieutenant-General. In the Imperial Service officers frequently hold local rank of a grade higher than their substantive position, during their commands, as in the case of Sir Frederick Roberts, who is a Lieut.-General, but has the local rank of General as Commander-in-Chief in India. Why not, if we are to be sparing of rank—which is on the whole a sound principle—give our D. A. G.'s. local rank as Colonels, or Brigadiers, during their commands? Parliament is about to open, and we commend these points to our members, Messrs. Jones and Kenny. For the Hon. A. G. Jones, as an ex-minister of Militia, they may be supposed to possess a direct and particular interest.

While the run from Liverpool to New York is frequently made inside of seven days, it is refreshing to note the placidity with which Halifaxians put up with the slow mail service furnished by the Allan and Dominion lines to this port. One of the Dominion boats made what was called the remarkably quick time of 8½ days from Liverpool, but with this one exception the foreign mails do not arrive until Sunday or Monday, one was delivered on a Wednesday, and the mail per *Sarmatian* was not distributed until Thursday the 17th ult. This steamer left England on the 3rd, was detained at Moville by fog 24 hours, encountered only the "usual winter weather" and yet was over 13 days in making the passage to Halifax. The outward English mail closes at the Halifax post office at noon on Saturday, the following Monday the inward mail is due for delivery. Five days must therefore elapse before an answer can be despatched to an English letter unless sent via New York. This is simply infamous. The service is not only disgracefully slow, but the time of the arrival and departure of steamers is most inopportune. Nor is the immediate disarrangement and extreme inconvenience of correspondence the only evil entailed on us. Merchants of Quebec, Montreal and Toronto are led to believe that Halifax is too isolated to ever become the winter port. They find that letters sent via New York reach their destination in half the time that it takes to send via Halifax, and as a consequence, through the unusually slow Atlantic service, this port is condemned, and its business prospects damaged to an unknown extent. We note with pleasure that the Chamber of Commerce has taken up the matter and has determined that the claims of this city for a fast ocean service shall no longer be overlooked. If it perseveres the result will be that Halifax will have a five days service to and from England, and will become the favorite ocean port for the arrival and departure of mails and passengers.