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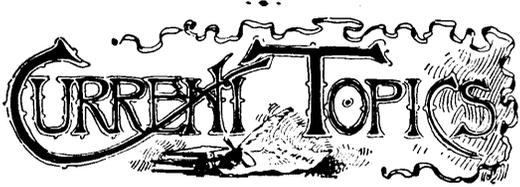
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OUR VICTORIA NUMBER.

The next issue of THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED will be entirely devoted to the Royal Visit to Victoria, B.C., the reception by the authorities, the games and festivities in honour of the event, and to other matters therewith associated. Our representative in Western Canada, Mr. Brownlee, has been at the utmost pains to secure the best possible illustrations of all the scenes and proceedings connected with the Royal sojourn in the island capital.



The imports and exports of the United Kingdom reached last year a total of £740,242,564—the highest figure yet attained. The imports amounted to £427,210,830; the exports of British produce, to £248,091,959; the exports of foreign and colonial produce, to £64,939,715. The imports from British possessions amounted to £97,136,483. In these India took the lead with £36,026,402, Australasia coming next, with £26,819,656, and British North America, third, with £12,183,835, or \$60,919,175. The exports to these countries were as follows:—To India, £30,967,258; to Australasia, £22,754,400, and to British North America, £8,114,777, or \$40,573,885. The imports from South Africa were a little more than half those from Canada, and from the Straits settlements nearly the same figure. England's trade with foreign countries reached a total of £495,216,666—imports, £329,986,290; exports, 165,230,376.

In his important work on "The Climate of Canada and its Relation to Life and Health," Dr. Hingston points out that the differences between the climate of Canada and that of Europe are mainly due to the winter. This is especially the case in this province in connection with the rainfall. In 1886 (the last year for which we have complete returns) 122 rainy days were recorded in Montreal. But in the winter months (December to March inclusive) rain fell on only 18 days. In the spring months (April and May) rain fell on 27 days; in the fall months (October and November), on 19 days, leaving 58 days of rain for the summer months. May had most rainy days (18). To June 15 days of rain are set down, and 13, 16, 14, respectively, to July, August and September. The average of rainy days for the whole province was 88.8. Of all the places at which records were kept, Pointe des Monts has the lowest figure (57), Cape Magdalen coming next (61), St. Francis next (66). Only one place exceeds Montreal in the number of rainy days—Quebec (123), while Brome and Bird Rock stations have just the same number (122).

We have already published the portrait of Lieutenant Stairs, with a brief sketch of his career, and some complimentary references to his services from the Commander of the Forces. In a timely and valuable article contributed by Mr. H. M. Stanley to *Scribner's Magazine* for June, the explorer pays a tribute of grateful acknowledgment to each of the officers of the expedition for the rescue of Emin Pasha. "I acknowledge," he writes, "the priceless services of my friends—Stairs, Jephson, Nelson and Parke—four men whose devotion to their several duties was as perfect as human nature is capable of. As a man's epitaph can only be justly written when he lies in his sepulchre, so I vainly attempted to tell them how much I valued the ready and prompt obedience of Stairs; that earnestness for work which distinguished Jephson; the brave soldierly qualities of Nelson, and the gentle, tender devotion paid by our doctor (Parke) to his ailing patients. But now that the long wanderings are over and they have bided and laboured ungrudgingly throughout the long period, I feel that my words are poor indeed when I need them to express in full my lasting obligation to each of them."

The census in Great Britain is much simpler in its character and methods than that of either the United States or Canada. It was first taken in 1801, but did not then include Ireland. It was not, however, till after several decades that a system at once prompt and trustworthy was attained. The uniform plan of registering births, marriages and deaths, introduced in the first year of Queen Victoria's reign, greatly facilitated the work of enumeration in ensuing censuses. The first Imperial census was taken in 1871, when it was found that the population of the Empire consisted of 234,762,593 souls occupying a total area of 7,769,449 square miles. In the British Isles the enumeration took in all the persons living in any house on the night of the 2nd of April. The population of India and the colonies was obtained through the Secretaries of State. The British house schedules require details as to the head of the family and the other persons of the household in relation to him, special schedules being supplied for sailors, bargemen, persons travelling and other classes not comprised in the ordinary enumeration. The information collected is afterwards carefully revised and arranged in abstracts under various headings, other statistics being used to give completeness to the work. The first census of the United States took place in 1790. It was a necessity—population being by the Constitution a main measure of political power. In 1810 its scope was greatly enlarged, and several modifications have since been introduced, so that, as now conducted, it is a manifold and far-reaching machinery for the collection of statistics on a great variety of subjects. The one-day system in vogue in England and other countries of Europe, has been found impracticable, the United States having, it is urged, no national organization which could be adopted to the purpose of gathering replies to such a multiplicity of inquiries as the American census comprehends. The government endeavours to reduce the risk of inaccuracy by minimizing the districts—a plan which demands a large army of enumerators and involves the difficulty of securing competent persons to undertake a merely temporary and poorly paid service.

Our own census is based partly on the British,

partly on the American system. Its aim is to ascertain, with the utmost possible accuracy, the population of the various territorial divisions of the country classified as to age, sex, social condition, religion, education, race, education and employment; the number of houses and other buildings, occupied and unoccupied, completed or under construction, their style, material and purposes; the area and condition of the land, its national products and, if cultivated, the yield of various grains, vegetables, fruits, etc.; its capacity for stock-raising; the lumbering, mining and fishing industries; statistics of manufactures; the state of trade in each city, town or district, and its municipal, educational, charitable and religious institutions, and other details set forth in the forms and instructions duly furnished to the enumerators. The latter are required to use all diligence in obtaining the information specified in the census papers and to confine their attention exclusively to the duties mentioned in their instructions. They must take oath to that intent, and if they make default or false entries they are guilty of misdemeanor. On the other hand they must be allowed reasonable access to sources of information by those who have them in charge and those who obstruct them in any way may be proceeded against. The accuracy of a census depends largely on the commissioners and examining experts who quickly detect a wrong entry made through heedlessness or ignorance. Statistics have, indeed, attained the rank of a science, and there are now many ways of checking inaccuracies of enumeration that must formerly have been left uncorrected through lack of classified knowledge.

LABOUR PROBLEMS AND THEIR SOLUTION.

Two important reports have recently seen the light under very different circumstances, and though they both deal with the same subject, their conclusions and the impressions which they leave on the mind are widely diverse in character. The first of the documents to which we refer is really a series of reports, of which the latest, issued a few weeks ago, is now engaging the attention of the press and business public in England. Some years ago the House of Lords appointed a select committee to take and consider evidence touching the employment of labour in certain English industries on conditions which have justified the name of the "sweating system." Hundreds of witnesses have been examined, and the testimony rendered by some of them was such as to shock the sense of humanity and justice. The revelations of the first four reports, which were published day by day in the newspapers before they appeared in blue-book form, naturally set statesmen to the task of devising some remedy for such terrible evils. The more important organs of public opinion discussed the whole question from every point of view, and various suggestions were made for the relief of the unfortunate victims of this crushing competition, which spares neither age nor sex. The simultaneous agitation for labour reform on the continent of Europe made it all the more essential that something should be promptly done in making the exposure of the sweating system advantageous to the poor people who suffered from its slavery. But the reflections with which the committee close the last report imply an admission that, so far, hardly any appreciable redress has been brought