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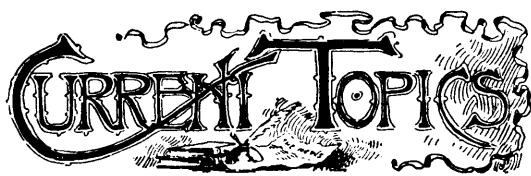
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The report of the general officer commanding the militia, in the last Report of the Department of Militia and Defence, contains some interesting particulars regarding the more recent progress of the Royal Military College, Kingston, an illustrated account of which appeared in this paper some months ago. On the occasion of General Middleton's visit on the 1st of November, he found everything in a satisfactory state under the administration of the new commandant. All the professors and instructors were showing their accustomed zeal in the discharge of their duties. The artillery class was in charge of Major-General Cameron, pending the arrival of Major Nash's successor. Lieut. Moren, R.A., a graduate of the Royal Military College, had been added to the staff of instructors. After pointing out some urgent desiderata—a hospital, more dormitory accommodation, etc.—the report thus refers to a distinguished alumnus of the institution: "One of the oldest graduates, Lieut. Stairs, R.E., as you are aware, has gained a world-wide reputation by the gallantry, zeal and ability displayed by him in Mr. Stanley's late expedition. Stairs has safely weathered all the dangers and hardships of an African exploring expedition, to the great joy and satisfaction not only of his old friends and comrades, but, we may say, all of Canada, and he will doubtless receive all the rewards he merits." Honourable mention is also made of Capt. Wise, late A.D.C. to General Middleton, and of Local Captain Mackay, R.E., who "has been honoured by the bestowal of the Distinguished Service Order for services in Africa." Captain Mackay's friends in this city and elsewhere will be glad to hear of his advancement. General Middleton adds that he continues to hear privately "most gratifying accounts of the other graduates who have joined the Imperial Army and of those who have entered civil life." Sergeant-Major Rogers, the senior cadet of the college, whose acquaintance our readers have already made, has joined the Royal Engineers in England. "His conduct," says General Middleton, "as well as his progress in study, has been most remarkable, and I am sure he will add to the credit already given to the Royal Military College for sending such men to the Imperial service." All this is high praise for Canada's sons, and should fill the heart of every patriotic Canadian with honest pride.

In the course of the speech which he delivered when moving an amendment to Mr. Wallace's Orange Incorporation Bill, Mr. Curran, M.P., made a remark, the truth of which is beyond dispute, and of which the practical self-application

by a large class of our fellow-citizens would be of considerable service to the cause of peace and order. "We have in this bill," said Mr. Curran, "the principle enunciated that the association is essentially a loyal one, and that one of its objects is the inculcation of loyalty. Now, what is loyalty, if it is not respect for the law? The word 'loyalty' is derived from the word 'loi,' and respect for the law is the best meaning for showing our loyalty." Here is a text on which the shepherds of our people, of every name, might profitably preach sermons of instruction and admonition. Indeed, Mr. Curran's pithy sentences, without any further comment, form an admirable sermon which those who run may read, which all of us, pastors and people, would do well to mark, learn and inwardly digest, and the practice of which would keep us on the path of safety, pleasantness and peace.

It was only to be expected that the president of the Western Union Telegraph Company would look upon Mr. Wanamaker's scheme of Government telegraphs with disfavour, and there is, doubtless, a good deal of truth in what he said of the Postmaster-General's policy. From a business point of view, he pronounces it impracticable. Dr. Norvin Green did not deny that he was an interested witness. The rivalry of Government telegraphs would, he felt, be a serious drawback to the success which had hitherto attended the administration of the company's affairs. But he took pains to show that the proposed scheme could only be carried out at a loss. Mr. Charles Whiting Baker, in his work on "Monopolies and the People," brings out very clearly the result of the company's operations, both as they affect the shareholders and as they affect the public. "In 1859," he writes, "the Western Union Telegraph Company was formed, with the avowed intention of combining these warring companies and making the telegraph business profitable. It has exceeded the most sanguine dreams of its promoters by swallowing up its rivals, until the entire system of telegraphic communication of the country is practically in its hands. The effects of this consolidation have been of two sorts. On the one hand we have the telegraph service of the country performed with the least possible work; there is nothing wasted in the maintenance of two or more rival offices in small towns where one is sufficient, nor in operating two lines of wire when a single one would serve as well. On the other hand, it is plain that the public is wholly at the mercy of the monopoly in the matter of rates, and must pay for the telegraph exactly what the corporation asks." The plea that telegraphing is a luxury which only rich people can afford, and that it makes little difference, therefore, whether the rates are high or low, Mr. Baker does not accept. "A principal use of the telegraph is," he urges, "to aid in the prosecution of business; hence, to unduly raise rates is to cause an additional tax on business, on the carrying on of the processes of production. This tax will certainly have its effects, either in decreased profits, decreased wages, or an increased price for the product. Another large class of telegrams are those which are sent, with little thought of the cost, in time of sickness, death or sudden emergency, yet by people whose purse feels severely the tax." The question how monopolies can be controlled—whether by official supervision, under private ownership, or by the State constituting itself both owner and manager, has for years been agitating the

public mind across the lines. Mr. Wanamaker's policy would seem to imply that, as to one great interest, it has reached the stage at which discussion ceases and action begins.

OUR ARCHIVES.

For years the complaint was made that in Canada we had no systematic provision for the collection, classification and safe-keeping of the documentary sources of our history. The Archives Bureau, and the Archivist's work, so familiar to the younger generation of our historical students, were unknown to the puzzled inquirers of a day not very distant. So thoroughly organized is the department to-day, so indispensable, so eagerly sought after are its treasures, so accustomed have we grown to the yearly Report with its prized gleanings from the ever increasing wealth of long buried lore, guarded so jealously in those well-ordered vaults, that we can hardly realize the nearness of those years of perplexed and fruitless search which preceded Mr. Brymner's installation. In the last Report, we have from his own pen a concise, straightforward account of the origin and organization of this important branch of the public service. It was prepared as a paper to be read before the American Historical Association at its meeting in Washington in December, 1888. The leading members of that distinguished body had already learned the value of Mr. Brymner's labours and had made no secret of the help which they had derived from them. Mr. Justin Winsor, of Harvard College, editor-in-chief of the "Narrative and Critical History of America," and Dr. Poole, of Chicago, who had, in successive years, filled the office of president of the Association, and Prof. H. B. Adams, the secretary, expressed their high opinion of Mr. Brymner's services to the cause of historical research. Prof. Adams said that from Mr. Brymner's paper the Association had "learned what scientific order can be brought out of a chaos of state papers by well directed efforts with only moderate government aid."

After defining the functions of the Archivist as distinguished from those of the librarian and of the historian, and emphasizing the importance to himself of bearing that distinction in mind, Mr. Brymner points out that, under the peripatetic system of the Union régime the systematic collection of records was virtually impossible. After federation, the provinces retained much valuable material. Not until 1871 were steps taken to arrange what material might be forthcoming. The new bureau began its career in June, 1872, as a branch of the Department of Agriculture, Arts and Statistics, and Mr. Brymner was selected to organize it. He "was furnished with three empty rooms and very vague instructions." The year 1872 was spent in visiting the provincial capitals. In 1873 he went to London, and his first selection was the Haldimand correspondence (the calendar of which is concluded in the present volume), a series that throws a flood of light on a period hitherto exceptionally obscure. Not the least welcome result of the disinterment of this mass of documents is the illustration of Haldimand's own character—long misunderstood through superficial judgment from imperfect data. The thirty volumes of the Bouquet collection—which formed part of the gift of Mr. W. Haldimand, the Governor's great grand-nephew, to the British Museum—have also been copied and calendared. Among the *spolia opima* of 1873 there was a mass of military