

the firm when in this city last summer is said to have laughed at the idea of steel being made on this side whose quality would bring it into competition with that smelted by his firm.

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One thing is dead certain, if either the Vickers or Armstrongs acquire the Soo works they will be financed on the strictest principles of honour and economy, with a view exclusively to profit earning and commercial success. It would be an incalculable blessing to Canada for so extensive an enterprise to get into the hands of a high class, wealthy, world-renowned English firm. But, no firm would engage in so mixed a variety of manufactures as those established under the management of one company at Sault Ste. Marie.

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The Council of the Board of Trade of this city, at an early meeting, will pass upon the proposal of the local Street Railway Company to have its franchise extended at the end of the present term, which has about twenty years yet to run. In these days when leading men of science are anticipating that marvellous advances in the production of power will be made in the not distant future, twenty years is a long time ahead.

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An event of profound significance, one in which Canada is deeply interested, is the Treaty of Arbitration between England and France signed on 14th inst., which reads as follows:

"The Government of the French Republic and the Government of His Britannic Majesty, signatories of the convention concluded at The Hague, July 29, 1899, for the peaceful settlement of international disputes:

"Considering that by article 19 of that treaty the high contracting powers reserve to themselves the right of concluding agreements with the view to have recourse to arbitration in all cases in which they shall consider it possible to submit thereto:

"Have authorized the undersigned to agree to the following provisions:

"Article 1.—Differences of a judicial order, of such as relate to the interpretation of treaties existing between the two contracting parties, which may arise between them and which it may not be possible to settle by means of diplomacy, shall be submitted to the permanent court of arbitration established at The Hague by the convention of July 29, 1899, on condition, however, that they do not involve either vital interests or the dependence of honour of the two contracting states, and that they do not affect the interests of a third power:

"Article 2.—In each particular case the high contracting parties, before addressing themselves to the permanent court of arbitration, shall sign a special arbitration bond setting forth clearly the subject under dispute, the extent of the powers of the arbitrators and the details to be observed as regards the constitution of the arbitral tribunal and the procedure:

"Article 3.—The present arrangement is concluded for a term of five years from the date of the signature.

"CAMBON,
"LANSDOWNE."

An esteemed correspondent in Birmingham, England, has sent us a copy of a letter which appeared in the "Daily Post" of that city, relative to emigration to Canada. The writer narrates his own experience:

"I myself have been out here, in Muskoka, since last May, and have seen some rough times. Of course, I am fairly used to rough times, having spent three years in Africa, still my subject is regarding Canada. Previous to my sailing I was told by an agent that farm hands received \$35 per month, equal £6, all found. Well, they do for two months in the year (harvest time) if they are experienced hands, and it is very difficult to obtain a situation on a farm in the winter. If you are fortunate enough the pay runs about 10s. per week with board. The men either have to go labouring or shovelling snow off the railway tracks at a wage about 5s. per day; board costs about 14s per week, and clothes are about 10 per cent. dearer than in England."

He is quite justified in saying that, some capital and a lot of hard work are necessary to enable a settler to do well in "Golden Canada." He says in conclusion: "I pity the young fellow that comes here who cannot do manual labour, and do plenty of it, and do not be misled by the agents, who are simply acting for shipping companies."

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It is no news to us that some shipping agents have grossly exaggerated the advantages Canada offers to settlers, while at the same time they have concealed, the difficulties met with in this country by new arrivals. The emigration officials ought to watch these agents and do everything possible to give emigrants and others a thoroughly straightforward account of the conditions awaiting new settlers in Canada.

PERSONALS.

MR. A. H. HOOVER, Toronto, president and managing director of the Sovereign Life Assurance Company, favoured us with a call on 10th inst., when on his way to the Maritime Provinces, where his Company is opening business connections.

MR. GEORGE E. GATES, of the Canada Life, Toronto, has been appointed secretary of the Central Ontario branch, Hamilton. On leaving Toronto his friends presented him with a gold watch.

MR. THOMAS DAVIDSON has been appointed manager of the Canada Life for Northwestern Ohio. Mr. Davidson has had a long connection with the Company, and knows the American field thoroughly, so that he is expected to make his department a success.

MR. J. GARDNER THOMPSON, joint resident manager Liverpool & London & Globe Insurance Co., arrived in Montreal a few days ago, on his return from the old country, where he had gone on official business, in connection with his Company. During his brief stay on the other side Mr. Thompson took the opportunity of visiting relatives in his native city, Belfast, Ireland.