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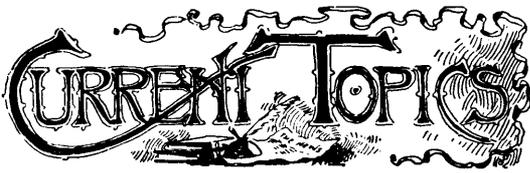
SOLE AGENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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NOTICE.

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Any intrusion of political feeling into the ordinary intercourse of social life is to be deplored and deprecated. We regret to learn that the conviction still prevails in certain quarters that the slight offered to the Hon. J. W. Longley, Attorney-General of Nova Scotia, by persistently excluding him from the Halifax Club, is due to party hostility. In private life Mr. Longley is esteemed by all who know him; his character is above reproach; he is a man of unquestioned ability; a Q. C. of Dominion appointment; an student of history, letters and economic questions. Such a man, his friends think, ought not to be an unclubbable person, and they can think of nothing but political antagonism as a cause for his black-balling. If this be the case, as there seems reason to believe, we sincerely regret it. There are other precedents of old world society that Canada might follow with much greater advantage.

The forecast of improvement in the administration of hospitals for the insane indicated by several and clearly outlined by a few of our contemporaries has been repeated in the Speech from the Throne at the opening of the Quebec Legislature. As yet we have not any definite statement of the full extent of the changes contemplated, but we know the direction which they are to take. The Government will in future assume the responsibility for the management of those institutions, so far as existing contracts permit, and the intention is ultimately to take over the entire control of them. Meanwhile, in what relates to the medical treatment of this sadly afflicted class, the authority of the Government will be paramount. Another noteworthy feature is the reform to be initiated in the separation of congenital idiots from those whose minds have been deranged through disease, injury or other causes. This is an alteration in asylum management which has long, by the greatest alienists of our time, been deemed essential to the successful application of means of cure to those whose cases may admit of hope. At the same time, it facilitates the supervision of the naturally feeble-minded, and their subjection to such discipline as may improve their condition. At the Earlwood and other institutions in Great Britain much has been done by trained teachers to awaken in these unfortunates such sparks of intellect as may be susceptible of rousing to useful activity, and some of them, who would otherwise have been mere burdens on society, have been rendered capable of attaining a certain skill in employments adapted to their condition. The great benefit, however, of the new policy is that it gives a fuller opportunity of dealing effectually with that unhappy class of insane persons whose recovery (where recovery is possible) can only be assured by extreme watchfulness, rigid attention to rules of health and the constant care of thoroughly qualified alienists.

Seldom in the political history of the United States (of any great country, indeed,) has a reaction so far-reaching overtaken public opinion as that which was exemplified by the elections to the House of Representatives last week. The Democrats achieved a victory so sweeping as to surprise even their own party leaders. The 52nd Congress, that meets on the 4th of March next, will, in the respective numbers of the opposing parties, differ more materially from its predecessor than any two consecutive Congresses since the foundation of the Republic. The House elected in 1888 consisted of 176 Republicans and 153 Democrats; the House that meets in spring next will be composed of 233 Democrats and 103 Republicans. In not a single State did the party in power make any gain. In all but at most half a dozen it lost. In Massachusetts its representation fell from 10 to 5; in Illinois, from 13 to 8; in Pennsylvania, from 20 to 18; in New York, from 18 to 15; in Iowa, from 10 to 5; in Michigan, from 9 to 4; in California, from 4 to 0; in Kansas, from 7 to 1; in Ohio, from 16 to 8; in Virginia, from 4 to 0. The elections for Governors and State Legislatures were correspondingly sweeping. Mr. W. E. Russell (Democrat) is returned for Massachusetts, Mr. Pattison (Democrat) for Pennsylvania, and so on all along the line. President Cleveland expressed his "gratification as that of an American proud of his fellow-countrymen, who, though led away for a time by party prejudices and by blind confidence in cunning and selfish leaders, could not be deluded to their ruin. They have demonstrated that in dealing with them it is not safe to calculate that they are stupid or heedless of the welfare of their countrymen. The necessity," he continued, "of tariff reform, with its consequent reduction in the cost of living and the duty of the Democratic party to advocate it has been fully demonstrated by the action of the people. Their decision has been deliberately made, and it is all the more significant because they have voted upon their reason and judgment and because they have proved that corruption is powerless as against their convictions." Mr. Cleveland is naturally buoyed up with the hope of a still grander triumph—a Democratic president (himself once more, perhaps,) and a Democratic Senate. Many things may happen in two years; but, if the Democrats know how to use the vantage ground that they have gained, the hope may be fulfilled.

We devote due attention in this issue to the illustration of the visit to Canada of the delegation from the Iron and Steel Institute of Great Britain. The presence of those gentlemen in the Dominion is sure to give a fruitful impulse to the development of our mineral resources. Not the least notable incident in their brief sojourn amongst us was their being made eye-witnesses of Canada's wealth in a substance of the utmost importance in the manufacture of steel. They had seen, as Mr. Snelus, who has done so much to improve and advance that great industry, was delighted to confess at the Ottawa luncheon, something of whose existence in the world they little dreamed—a vast natural supply of nickel, a metal which they had been wont to regard as a rare, a unique product of nature, and which was of such inestimable service in eliciting some of the most remarkable properties of steel. The ores of this precious metal—at least some of the most valuable of them—are described in the report of the Royal Commission on the mineral resources of Ontario. All nickel ores, we are there informed, are found in veins in the primary or lower secondary formations, and the ores are rarely found except in association with cobalt ores mixed with the ores of copper, lead and other minerals. The copper-bearing rocks of the Sudbury district, the copper of which is generally associated with nickeliferous pyrrhotite (the average being from 3 to 7 per cent. of copper pyrites, $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of nickel, about 63 per cent. of pyrrhotite, and 30 per cent. of rock), are of considerable extent, and the pronouncement of Mr. Snelus must add very materially to their value. Nature had been equally prodigal, the president added, in bestowing upon Canada other precious and economic metals, from gold to iron,

and her great mineral resources only awaited development to yield enormous profits. Such words coming from the recognized official king of the great mineral kingdom must have the effect of stimulating Canadian capital and enterprise to more and more fruitful exertion.

The McKinley Bill seems to have already had a quickening effect on an important portion of our industrial community, directing attention to branches of production hitherto neglected, and indicating new markets in cases where the chief outlet had previously been to the States. The *Commercial*, of Winnipeg, sees no reason, nor do we, why Canada should not do something in a branch of food-production, which has long been strangely lost sight of on this side of the line—that of raising hogs. Pork, our contemporary points out, can be produced at home for less than the cost of freight and duty on the imported article. The cost to the consumers of Western Canada for cured hog products is estimated at about \$2,000,000 a year. The imported commodity costs three cents a pound duty and about a cent a pound for freight and handling. Thus, consumers pay four cents in addition to first cost and the profits of the dealers. Yet pork might be produced at home for two or three cents a pound. When, as now, large crops of cheap grains and roots are at the disposal of our farmers, pork could, it is thought, be grown without difficulty at half the cost that is now being paid for it. The suggested saving would surely be worth making, and it is only necessary to make a beginning, and success is certain to follow the undertaking.

We had occasion to mention last year how highly the Lethbridge coal is esteemed in Montana. At that time the great difficulty was lack of means of transport, absence of railway facilities necessitating a most inconvenient and costly circuit. Some time ago the first train of "Galt coal" (as it is called, from Sir A. T. Galt's connection with the enterprise) arrived over the Montana Central to the Helena Lumber Company. The narrow-gauge trains, laden with the fuel, are, as they arrive from the mine, run on to trestles prepared for the purpose at Great Falls, and the cargoes are dumped into cars of the Montana Central on the tracks beneath without the least delay. The haul from Lethbridge to Montana is 300 miles. The price in Helena for Galt coal, delivered in lump, is \$7.25 for lump, \$5.75 for nut. It is given a fine character as a calorific, one ton for heating purposes being deemed equivalent to two cords of yellow pine wood. Lethbridge is jubilant over the completion of the line from that place to Great Falls, the event being celebrated by a special railway edition of the *Lethbridge News*.

The census returns for the last decade in the United States have not proved so satisfactory as the more enthusiastic forecasts led one to expect. According to the latest bulletin on the subject the population of the country on the 1st of June last was 62,480,540. It is thought that certain conditions still to be made will bring the total up to nearly 63,000,000. In 1880 the population was 50,155,783. The absolute increase of the population in the ten years was, therefore, 2,324,757; and the percentage of increase 24.47. In 1870 the population was stated at 38,588,371. According to these figures the absolute increase in the decade between 1870 and 1880 was 11,597,412, and the percentage of increase was 30.08. These figures show that the population was increased between 1880 and 1890 only 727,325 more than between 1870 and 1880, while the rate of increase has been apparently diminished from 30.08 to 24.57 per cent. Such a reduction in the rate of increase in the face of the enormous immigration during the past ten years would argue a great diminution in the fecundity of the population or a corresponding increase in its death rate. These figures are, however, explained by the fact that the census of 1870 was grossly deficient in the Southern States. Pennsylvania (5,248,574) has added 965,683 to its population in the ten years, and comes first in the rate of increase. New York, which for actual population (5,981,934) takes the lead, comes second as to