

absorb the excess of moisture and drain the soil. The scents of many plants are of great value, and the leaves of all trees and plants, by reason of the power they possess to split up carbonic acid and generate ozone, remedy some of the evil effects of bad ventilation. Much has also been said by scientific men about the value of forest trees in intercepting marsh miasma and malaria germs.

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#### BRITISH COLUMBIA NOTES.

THE cause of education is prospering in this Province under the able superintendency of Mr. Stephen D. Pope, who is not only a man of large experience in educational matters, but who is most assiduous in his efforts to improve the school system. The Provincial Government supports the schools most liberally,

builds the school-houses, pays the teachers, provides maps, etc., does everything in fact—nothing being left to local effort. This system has its advantages; it is perhaps the only system that could be operated successfully in a Province like this where there are so many little communities far apart; but it has its drawbacks. Every district where there are fifteen children of school age, and where an average attendance of ten can be maintained, is by law entitled to a school. Such communities are fast springing into existence and the Government is beginning to feel that the support of education constitutes a very heavy drain upon its resources and a drain that will continually be getting heavier. A normal school is needed, a university is needed, but where is the money to come from? This is getting to be a serious question with our legislators and the friends of education generally D.

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THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.—The United States Washington national monument was formally dedicated at the capital on Saturday, February 21, with imposing ceremonies, by President Arthur. The first public step towards erecting this monument was taken in 1783—one hundred and two years ago; various delays occurred from time to time in the maturing and carrying out of the plans. At length the corner stone was laid in 1848, and when the shaft had reached the height of 156 feet it stood thus for nearly a quarter of a century. Subsequently, the foundation was materially deepened and extended, and the shaft was completed by the laying of the capstone on the 6th of December last. It was at one time intended to lay the remains of General Washington under the monument; but that idea was finally abandoned, for, although Mrs. Washington had given a reluctant consent, the representatives of the family that followed her were

unwilling that the body should be disturbed. A large number of memorial stones have been sent in by different states and territories, as well as by foreign countries to assist in the building, and many of them were used in the first part of the work, but the character of most of them was such that they could not be used in the shaft, and it is intended to place them as panels in the interior walls of the monument. The column is over 555 feet high, the base 55 feet square. The foundation rests upon a stratum of fine sand two feet thick, and this again upon a bed of boulders and gravel; the bottom of the foundation is two feet above the level of high tides in the Potomac. 14,000 barrels of cement and 9,613 stones have been used in the new portion of the shaft. The cost of the work up to the present time has been \$1,187,710. It seems to have been completed by a monument committee presided over by Col. Casey. No accident involving loss of life has occurred in its construction.