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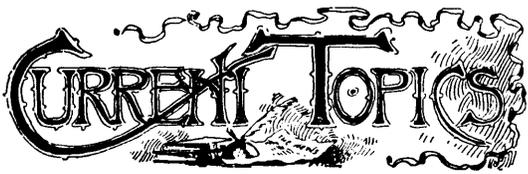
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BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENT.

The business, hitherto carried on by the Dominion Illustrated Publishing Company (limited), has been purchased and will be continued by the Sabiston Lithographic and Publishing Company, of which Mr. Richard White is President and Mr. Alex. Sabiston is Managing-Director. It is hoped to add to the interest and value of the paper, both from a pictorial and literary standpoint, and to extend and improve the business in its various departments. The business will be carried on in the meantime at the old premises, 73 St. James street, Montreal, under the management of Mr. J. P. Edwards, to whom all communications in connection with accounts due the old company and new business should be addressed.



In an article on crop estimates, the *Winnipeg Commercial*, expresses the opinion that most of those hazarded regarding Manitoba are too large—several of them placing the wheat crop of that province for 1890 at 20,000,000 bushels. This means an average of 27 bushels an acre, which is a very heavy yield and one that Manitoba is hardly likely to reach this year. The latest crop reports for localities range from 15 to 35 bushels, the mean of which would be 25 bushels an acre. This again must be reduced to allow for the general tendency to excess in such forecasts. "If, therefore," continues our contemporary, "we place the average for the province at twenty bushels per acre, we will have 14,921,160 bushels of wheat, and if Manitoba turns out a crop of this size, we will have no reason to grumble. While we hope it may reach the larger estimates, we will feel satisfied if it amounts to the figures given above. At any rate, with the good prospects ahead, there is no reason to overdo things. Better be on the safe side, and if we underestimate the crop for once, it will help to counteract the impression abroad that Manitoba crops are unreliable, and are made solely for the purpose of enticing people to the country."

Some time ago we had occasion to call attention to the numerous complaints which for a long while have been in circulation regarding the application of the liquor law in the Territories. We based our comments on authority which could not well be questioned, as we found it in the utterances of officials in the departmental blue-books. The *Winnipeg Commercial* not long since published a severe article on the same theme, which was, it is claimed, prompted by information gathered in the region concerned. If the charges thus reiterated—charges, moreover, which were made and left uncontradicted in the House of Commons—are well founded, no time should be lost in adopting such measures as may tend to remove the scandal of such bold and persistent defiance of the law. The statements of the *Commercial* have been confirmed by several other western papers, all of which protest against this flagrant lawlessness being allowed to continue unchecked.

"The fact of the matter is," says the *Commercial*, returning to the charge, "that the alleged restrictive regulations are no restriction at all upon the promiscuous sale of liquors, under conditions which are anything but pleasant to contemplate. Prohibition, as carried out in the Territories, is a huge farce; the law is a hollow mockery, and the situation is simply disgraceful to those who uphold it, as well as humiliating to the people of the Territories, who are obliged to submit to it." This is strong language, but not too strong to cope with an evil so enormous and so far-reaching in its degrading effects.

Reports from the Templeton and Portland phosphate mines indicate continued prosperity in those districts. Mr. W. McIntosh, of Buckingham, has, it is said, struck another valuable deposit. The Blackburn and McLaurin mine is also doing well under the management of Mr. John Higginson, who, however, complains of the scarcity of labour. It is still a natural cause of surprise that this great source of wealth is not utilized to a larger extent by Canadian capitalists and manufacturers. As yet only a few spots have been tapped here and there, though the range of production is practically exhaustless. A year or so ago it was expected that a new era of development was about to begin, and doubtless there has been considerable improvement since then. But the progress is fitful and the results attained but a tithe of what they ought to be. As a fertilizer our Canadian phosphate has no superior. Even the raw phosphate has been used for that purpose. A mass of valuable information on the Canadian deposits, the Superphosphate Works at Smith's Falls and the market both for the raw material and the fertilizer may be consulted in the instructive Report of the Ontario Mineral Commission, a brief summary of which appeared not long since in our columns. The phosphate used in the Works is obtained from Buckingham and Burgess. The demand for Canadian phosphate has of late been increasing, both in England and in the United States. It is said that Canadian apatite forms one-twelfth of the whole quantity used in British manufactures. Last year 23,690 tons of phosphate were mined and shipped from Canada—from the Ottawa district 18,955, and from the Ontario district 4,735 tons. But for difficulties of transport on the *Lievre* and high ocean freights, the exports would, it is thought, have been larger.

It is very unfortunate that the treatment of the insane in this province should have been made in any sense a party question, or that it should have been complicated with religious considerations. The subject is one in which, from many points of view, the public is intensely interested. There is no family, however healthy its record, that can claim any lease of immunity from the scourge. A fever, an accidental lesion, persistent disregard of sanitary laws, intermarriage with a family in which the germs of mental disease may have lain dormant for generations—these and other causes may produce a break in the sanest record. Who has not known instances of the most vigorous intellects gradually decaying till those who seemed the least likely to fall victims to the dire malady have become mere wrecks and shadows of their former selves? And statistics show that such cases are increasing. Our mode of living, so eager, so restless, magnifies the risks, especially where there is the slightest predisposition to derangement. It is of the utmost importance that all the resources of science should be placed at the disposal of the growing multitude of sufferers. To this end, the first essential is the recognition of a clear distinction between those who, in the nature of things, are incurable, who have been imbecile from their birth, and those who have been stricken with insanity after a larger or shorter career of mental soundness. The former class has been the subject of some interesting studies and experiments to ascertain to what extent the congenitally weak may be improved. Examples have been cited of the surprising re-

sults of wise training, where, by the old *laissez-faire* system, it might seem absurd to hope for any change. In the treatment of lunatics, who should be in a separate establishment from the idiots, classification, according to the different mental states of the patients, is primarily necessary. The methods of scientific alienists in our day are separated by a great gulf from the usage of the old asylums. But to give science fair scope the farming-out plan must be done away with. If contracts interfere with its entire abolition at once, their operation should be accompanied with the strictest supervision till that consummation is reached. Enlightened opinion, the cause of humanity, and the public weal, demand a thorough reform, and to that demand there are no interests of sufficient moment to justify their being preferred.

In a recent illustration of American college life, a thin, delicate-visaged, studious-looking young man is contrasted with a hulking giant, with cropped head, pointed protruding ears, prominent jaw-bones and exceptionally developed muscular system—the prize-fighter type, in fact. The small spectacled figure is supposed to represent the undergraduate in the first year of college experience; the huge, brutal-looking savage, in whose face there is not a gleam of intellectual aspiration, is meant to show the result of a few years' training at one of the faster sporting colleges. The portrait is, of course, an exaggeration of the reality. The nude, bemedalled athlete, with his narrow forehead, whose physique has profited by the neglect of his mind, could never have been evolved from the little broad-browed man, with whom he is contrasted. There is, however, a share of truth in the caricature. Physical training is undoubtedly a good thing, and many a college student has had occasion bitterly to rue the prizes won by over-devotion to his books and oblivion of the bodily frame. For it is undoubtedly on the good condition of the body that permanent mental efficiency depends. Far too long both in philosophy and religion mind and body were divorced. Seneca and St. Paul were quoted to justify the contempt of the one and the exaltation of the other. But the later—which is also the earlier—doctrine gives the body due thought and makes the perfection of human development consist of health of body no less than soundness of mind. It was a happy revolution in education which restored the balance between physical and mental culture. But now, it seems, there is danger of the golden mean being forgotten to the serious injury of the young men of our time. Possibly, the one-sidedness complained of is but the normal reaction from that excess of mental culture, with insufficient exercise, which left the body flaccid, while the mind was over-laden. If so, the inequality will gradually right itself under the influence of public opinion, and a lasting equilibrium of aim and result will take its place in our seats of learning.

The wheat-fields that may be seen in the new settlements around Lake St. John (an example of which, photographed near St. Felicien, last fall, was lately shown in this journal), recalls an almost forgotten stage in the agricultural development of the older portions of this province. In the early years of the colony the pioneers considered themselves fortunate if they were permitted to raise enough of the food grains to serve their own uses. But, before the close of the 17th century, the government had tried to stimulate farming on a larger scale. The task was not easy. The agricultural methods in vogue were not such as would satisfy an enthusiastic reformer. The *habitants* trusted too much to the bounty of the soil, and the mode of tillage was too often slovenly. In an official document of the year 1682 the Government at home is regretfully informed that the efforts to improve and extend agriculture in the province had proved fruitless, and that it was vain to expect more crops than would barely satisfy the needs of the population. Another communication said that if, in Europe, the soil was not turned to better account than it was in