

A MINNESOTA FARMER

WRITES OF WESTERN CANADA WHERE HE IS NOW LOCATED.

The Farms in His Neighborhood Are Being Rapidly Taken Up by Former Residents of the United States.

The following extracts from a letter written to Mr. Benj. Davies, Canadian government agent at St. Paul, Minn., give an excellent idea of what is said of Western Canada by those who have gone there during the past two or three years.

"When we first arrived here and took up our homes on the prairie near Dalesboro, Assa., for a short time we had a bit of the 'blues,' but now all hands are settled to business, hale, hearty and contented, enjoying the finest winter we have ever seen. We have got very comfortably situated, with considerable preparations for a crop, and all hopeful. I think this is a very fine country, and if the past season's crop is not an exception, which they claim not, I believe this is going to be the wheat field of the West. It is filling up fast. In this township last spring there were 25 quarter-sections of land vacant and today there is not one. I can stand at my house and count ten houses where there was not one last spring, with six more to go up this spring. This is only a sample of what is going on all round. We intend to build a church next summer, right close to my place, so we will be strictly in line. It would have amused you to have been here last spring. There were crowds of land-seekers, and sometimes in the spring the prairie is not very inviting, and of course lots were disappointed. There was one in the crowd who jumped on me for putting a letter in the paper, only for which he never would have come here, and he was very hostile, but eventually he got a place and today claims he would not take a thousand dollars and move out, so I am glad he is satisfied.

"Well, my dear sir, as Arthur Finney is about to move out in March, with his family, and also one of my sons, anything you can do for them to assist them along and to make things smooth as possible, will be greatly appreciated by me. I will close for this time, and will write from time to time to let you know we are living. Drop us a few lines to let us know how things are moving in St. Paul. Yours Respectfully, "ALEX. CAMERON."

TO MEET STEAMSHIPS.

A New Service by the New York Central Railroad.

George B. Daniels, general passenger agent of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad, has added a steamship bureau to the equipment of the passenger service of the road. He has engaged Captain Louis Ingwersen and F. A. G. Schultze to superintend the bureau, and one of their duties will be to meet all incoming trans-Atlantic and the principal coastwise steamships to assist passengers who wish to leave the city via the Vanderbilt system. Capt. Ingwersen will have charge of the American, Cunard, White Star, Atlantic Transport, Wilson, Anchor and Allan-State lines, and Capt. Schultze has been assigned to the North German Lloyd, Hamburg-American, French, Rotterdam, Red Star and Thingvalia Lines.

They will meet all incoming steamships, and will be prepared to furnish railway tickets, parlor and sleeping car accommodations and to assist passengers with their baggage and check it to points on the line of the railroad, after it has been passed by the customs inspectors. They will also furnish passengers with cars operated by the railroad company, and furnish time tables and general information to passengers. The two men have also been directed to assist passengers who come to this city with a view of going abroad, and such passengers will be met at the Grand Central Station on incoming trains and conducted to the steamship. Their baggage will be attended to, and steamship tickets can be procured in advance by communicating with Mr. Daniels.—From the New York Commercial Advertiser.

New Method of Lighting Tunnels.

A new method of lighting tunnels is about to be adopted in one constructed in Paris for an electric road. Electric lamps will be turned on automatically as the train enters the tunnel and cut off automatically as it emerges. The lights are arranged on each side on a level with the windows of the cars, so that during daytime it will not be necessary to turn on the light in the cars. This mode has been devised by a French inventor, and doubtless will be found of great utility.

March Delineator.

A timely article in the March Delineator is devoted to the details of growing Seeds, Plants and Bulbs. The timeliness is outweighed, however, by the fact that the article is designed to open up to women a new line of healthful money-making.

The Delineator is devoted solely to the interests of women, and in many of its main features is an invaluable guide to the thrifty women who have to make their own clothes, as well as to the women who purchase clothing, yet desire advice and suggestions in doing so.

Florida, West Indies and Central America. The facilities of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad for handling tourists and travelers destined for all points in Florida, Cuba, Porto Rico, Central America, or for Nassau, are unsurpassed. Double daily lines of sleeping cars are run from Cincinnati, Louisville, Chicago and St. Louis through Jacksonville to interior Florida points, and to Miami, Tampa and New Orleans, the ports of embarkation for the countries mentioned. For folders, etc., write J. K. Ridgely, N. W. P. A., Chicago, Ill.

ALL THE CLOCKS

In the Island of Zanzibar Regulated by the Sultan's Whim.

Robert Crawford, of Chicago, spent a number of years wandering about this globe, and in the course of his travels spent some months in Zanzibar. In speaking of his experience there at the Hoffman House, Mr. Crawford said: "Zanzibar, you know, is a small island on the east coast of Africa, about half way between the entrance to the Gulf of Aden and Delagoa Bay. Although lying off the coast of German East Africa, it is a British possession. While I was there I became very friendly with the Sultan, and one day after we had become well acquainted when I was calling on him he led me to a room in a part of the palace in which I had never before been, saying we could talk more quietly there. He seemed a trifle upset, and as signs of strife were not wanting I have always since suspected the old boy of having had no end of a fuss with one of the favorites of his zenana that morning. We were enjoying a tepid peg when clocks began striking in an adjoining apartment—first a sharp ting-a-ling, then an alarm went off, then came the boom-boom of what could have been grandfather's clock. Finally I could stand it no longer and asked him what it was. 'Have I never shown you my clocks?' he questioned, as his face lit up with pleasure. He led me into the next apartment. The walls were literally lined with clocks of all sizes and descriptions and of every manufacture. America was represented, and so, too, was every other country. All were ticking merrily, but no two kept the same time, and so I asked him why he didn't have them regulated. 'Oh, I do that on purpose,' he airily replied; 'you see, some days when I rise late I am sorry and want it earlier, and vice versa. Then I came in here and glance at one of my clocks that I know to be either fast or slow, and there you are. The time is as I want it. You see, I regulate time—everything else in Zanzibar.' With a dazed feeling that I was in an intimate conversation with the Red Queen in 'Alice in Wonderland,' helplessly asked him what he meant by regulating time for the island. In Zanzibar the official time is taken from a clock on the tower opposite the palace. The Sultan asked me what time I would like it to be, and upon my saying 8 a. m. he led the way to the porch, summoned the official time-keeper, and said, 'It is now 8 in the morning—act accordingly!' And in a few moments I'm blessed if the hands of that dizzy clock weren't turned back to 8 o'clock."

WHEN MINISTERS GET OLD.

Church Will Not Tolerate Them—Professors Still to Be Noted.

"If the young man studying with ardor for the ministry until he is 25 would realize how quickly the decades of years will pass away, and how soon he will be only tolerated, if even that, by the church, we doubt," says the New York Christian Intelligencer (reformed), "whether he could muster sufficient enthusiasm to acquire well his lessons in Hebrew, theology and other studies by which he becomes equipped for his work. Reality would take the vigor out of his spirit. The church, as it encourages young men to study for the highest calling in life, should keep faith with its ministers. Shall it change the present course, or shall the men seek a trade as well as a profession, that when the latter falls them, the former, like a net beneath the trapeze performer, may receive them, or shall twenty years of service entitle them, as it does New York policemen, to the benefit of a retirement fund? There is need that this problem of ministerial supply should have careful and prayerful attention. Those looking forward to the ministry may well count the cost and recognize that to give one's self to this work demands special consecration, self-abnegation and the fullest preparation. And churches should learn by the experience of many that young people do not need nor demand youth and inexperience in a pastor, and that usefulness is not a matter of age, but of fitness."

Submarine Boats.

Germany appears to have decided altogether against the submarine boat. Recently Geheimrath Burley, at a naval meeting held in Charlottenburg, spoke with disdain of submarine boats, and averred that the German navy had nothing to fear from anything of this kind which might be built by foreign powers. As to Russia, it is not known what she is doing, or whether she is doing anything at all in the matter of submarine navigation. Spain is thinking only of how she can reduce her naval expenses, and is very far indeed from the epoch when she hoped so much from the submarine vessels which had been invented by Lieut. Peral. Whether it was because her performance fell below what had been expected, or because her inventor was not allowed to go on with his attempt, the Peral has been laid up for two years in a Spanish arsenal.

Chinese Faith in Foreign Doctors.

With all their superstition and disdain for the Christian religion, the Chinese people have great faith in the "foreigners'" knowledge of medicine, and their powers for healing.

A French Idea.

Christmas cards are a comparatively modern institution. The idea came from the French New Year cards.

Vienna "Cops" Accomplished.

Vienna policemen are required to understand telegraphy and to be able to swim and row a boat.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Latest News from the Scene of Conflict.

FRENCH RELIEVES KIMBERLEY

The Boer Victory at Spion Kop Being Followed Up by a Succession of Lesser Ones—Gien, Kitchener and Roberts in the Orange Free State.

Wednesday, Feb. 14. The British army, for the first time since the war began, is inside the Boer frontier. Lord Roberts, with 40,000 infantry, 7,000 cavalry and 150 guns, has turned the Magersfontein lines, before which the British forces have been encamped for ten weeks, and with half of his corps he is already operating on Free State territory. A battle has not yet been fought, but large tactical advantages have been gained. The relief of Kimberley is within measurable reach and the way to Bloemfontein is appreciably easier. The total losses of the British, as officially reported, to date are 10,515 killed, wounded and missing. The Boers have Buller's forces on the Tugela almost completely invested and fears are entertained that he may be cut off from his base of supplies.

Thursday, Feb. 15. Lord Rosebery arraigns the government for the situation in Africa, declaring that if the Boers win the British empire will be endangered, while even now the powers profit by England's embarrassment; said England tried to arrange alliance with Germany and the United States. London believes Roberts' movement in the Orange Free State will be successful; Cronje's line of communication cut. English army bill passed the house of commons; Chamberlain declared that if the Boers invaded Zululand natives will be aided to resist. The Times thinks Roberts' movement resembles that of Sherman against Atlanta. Boers importing large quantities of sugar, coffee and flour through Delagoa bay. Irish-American hospital corps sailed from New York for the Transvaal. Public sentiment in Rome favors an offer of mediation by Italy. Buller is encamped near Boschkop.

Friday, Feb. 16. The senate resumed discussion of the Philippine question. Mr. McEnery strongly opposed permanent acquisition of the islands and believed United States ought to relinquish them as soon as authority of this country has been asserted. Mr. Stewart took pronounced position in favor of admission of the products of any of the island possessions of the United States free of duty. Hawaiian bill was read, but nothing was done with it. The house by a vote of 75 to 67, in committee of the whole, struck out from legislative appropriation bill all provision for civil service commission.

Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 17-18. Dispatches from Jacobsdal show that General Kelly-Kenny, re-enforced by Macdonald's Highlanders, continues in pursuit of Cronje and that Gen. French has left Kimberley to join the British vanguard. More than 100 Boer supply wagons had been captured at latest accounts. Magersfontein has been deserted by the Free Staters and

is now in possession of the Guards. Continental rumors that Cronje and 7,000 men had been captured were circulated in London, but the British war office stated at midnight that there was no news to give out. The relief of Kimberley was accompanied by the loss of only fifty British soldiers, although many in Gen. French's column were prostrated by the heat. Gen. Buller's fourth advance movement is in progress. It began Wednesday from Cheveley, with Macdonald and Lyttelton in the van. At latest accounts Gen. Buller's headquarters had been established on Hussar Hill. There was heavy artillery fire from Wednesday to Friday. The progress of the British is reported as steady but slow. Dr. Jameson, of raid notoriety, is prostrated with the fever at Ladysmith.

Monday, Feb. 19. It is reported in London that the war office has advices from South Africa that the British have the big army of Gen. Cronje hopelessly surrounded. Gen. French, moving very rapidly with cavalry, is said to be between the escaping Boers and Bloemfontein and is awaiting re-enforcements preparatory to an attack. Boer sources say severe fighting is in progress in the vicinity of Kimberley and that Gen. Cronje is holding his own. From the same sources it is learned that the Free Staters are making desperate efforts to muster an army to resist British invasion. Gen. Buller has captured all the hills commanding the ford of the Tugela river near Colenso and is in position to enfilade the Boer positions. This gives him uninterrupted opportunity to cross the river and clear the direct road to Ladysmith. The British have captured Dordrecht after severe fighting.

CANCER IS CURED BY X RAY.

Physician Tries the Remedy on Himself with Success.

After suffering from cancer of the face for twenty-five years, Dr. J. M. Selfridge, founder of the Fabiola hospital in Oakland, Cal., has been almost cured by the X-ray. He began experimenting with the X-ray last October, in conjunction with his son, Dr. C. M. Selfridge, and Dr. N. H. Chamberlain. The same remedy has been given to many other sufferers with like astonishing relief. As far as the trial has gone, it seems a check has been discovered for the dread cancer scourge. Dr. Selfridge was led to begin his experiments by noting the powerful irritating effect of the X-ray on the healthy skin. He conceived the idea that the ray might dry up and heal the cancerous tissue. So he made a face mask of thin sheets of lead, leaving only a small aperture over the cancer. His face was covered with the mask, the cancerous wound only being exposed to the action of the ray. Beneficial results were noted at once, and soon the cancer began to dry up. Now only a scar remains where the cancerous sore existed for so many years. The physicians of Fabiola are trying the cure on other cancer patients and are getting encouraging results. What effect the ray may have on internal cancers is uncertain, as only external growths have yet been operated on.

Public School Destroyed.

The West End public school building of Washington, Ind., was destroyed by fire Sunday morning. It was a brick structure. Loss, \$12,000; insurance, \$5,500.

BOERS LOOTING A BRITISH TRAIN.



"HURRY UP! THE LANCERS ARE COMING."

Longest Trolley in the World.

Application has been made for the incorporation of the Geneva Lake, Sycamore & Morris electric railroad, with its principal office at Sycamore. The line is to extend from Morris, Ill., to Geneva Lake, Wis., with branches in DeKalb and Belvidere. It will be the longest electric line in the world.

Reciprocity Is Approved.

The chamber of commerce of Bordeaux, France, has approved the Franco-American reciprocity treaty.

Chinese Missionary Killed.

Shanghai papers give the details of the murder of the Anglican missionary, the Rev. S. M. Brooke. While on a visit to his wife, also a missionary, in t'aihuaf, south of Tien-Tsin, Mr. Brooke was seized by natives, who put a rope around his neck and dragged him behind horses until he was dead.

Richard Croker Doing Well.

Richard Croker cables that he is progressing favorably, and hopes to be able to walk in two weeks.

HIGH PRICE OF PAPER.

TARIFF TAX ON WOOD PULP A COSTLY ONE.

Why Compel Subscribers to Pay More for Their Country Newspaper—The Cry for Its Instant Removal Is Very Loud—Paper Trust Robbery.

There are very conclusive reasons why the present tariff tax on wood pulp and printing paper should be repealed, and there is no reason in the interest of American industry that pleads for the continuance of these taxes. They are now simply an element of robbery under color of law, and they should be effaced from our statutes.

The paper trust is now taxing the newspaper and book publishers of the country many millions, not because of any such actual increase in the cost of producing paper, but because the trust has the power to extort from the purchasers of paper up to the extent that would make tariff-taxed foreign paper and pulp cheaper than the prices demanded here. This trust has played its scheme of extortion to the uttermost, and congress should at once remove the tax that protects no American industry and that has become only an agent to rob the consumers.

Two-thirds of the wood pulp used in the manufacture of paper for American consumption should come from Canada, but it is excluded by a tariff tax, and we are now rushing headlong in the destruction of our forests, while Canada, with its almost limitless supply of timber, cannot reach our markets because of the tax imposed by the tariff.

The two conclusive reasons which should make congress act promptly are—first, that the paper trust should be at once halted in its rapid destruction of our American forests by the admission of free wood pulp from Canada; and, second, that the present extortion practiced by the paper trust upon publishers of newspapers and books shall cease to have the protection of the government.

The time has come when any trust that makes arbitrary profits by tariff duties must cease to be protected by the government. Where American industry needs protection it is reasonable to permit it, but where alleged protection is used only for systematic robbery, it must be overthrown.

We can now manufacture paper as cheaply as any country in the world. There is no excuse whatever for a tax upon the manufactured articles, and the raw material should be free, not only because the general principle is correct, but because if it shall not be done promptly our forests will be practically destroyed within a few years by tariff taxes excluding the lumber of Canada from our markets.

Paper and pulp must be made free of all taxes, as the paper trust has demonstrated that these taxes serve only a single purpose—that is to invite robbery under color of law.—Philadelphia Times.

A Hard Rain.

"It rains a great deal in the Fugate sound country," said the man from that section, "and I heard of a funny incident not long ago about it. Some chap had come from the Mississippi valley to take up his residence at Whatcom, on Bellingham bay, where there are very high tides. When the boat landed him at the end of the long pier extending over the tide flats the water was low and the new man didn't notice anything but a wide stretch of sand between the boat and the town. It was in the evening about dark and was raining, and he went to the hotel on the front street and stayed there, going to bed without having gone out for a walk. The next morning when he got up he looked out and the tide was in, the water coming up close to the hotel. He gazed at the widespread waters for an instant, and, throwing up his hands in astonishment, he exclaimed, 'Gee whis, but it must have rained hard last night!' Then he hurried down stairs to the office to find out if there was any danger from the flood, and the clerk smiled four or five times and gave him some much-needed information."—Washington Star.

Both in the Same Box.

A parson who occasionally preaches in South London arrived to take the place of the vicar, who had been called away on account of some family bereavement, and found an old and rather asthmatic lady struggling up the steps which led to the front door. He courteously gave her his arm to assist her and when they reached the top the dame asked him if he knew who was going to preach. "Mr. So-and-So," replied the parson, giving his own name. "Oh, dear me," exclaimed the old lady; "help me down again, if you please; I'd rather listen to the groaning and creaking of a windmill than sit under him," and she prepared to descend. The parson gently assisted her downstairs and signally remarked as he bade her good-by: "I wouldn't go in, either, if I weren't the preacher."

Domestic Reminders.

Wife—Do you know what you remind me of? Husband—No, but I do know what you remind me of. Wife—What? Husband—Of every little thing I forget to attend to that you ask me about.—Detroit Free Press.

Not Particular.

Brown—"I hear Jones is looking around for new quarters." Smith—"Oh, I guess he isn't particular about their newness. He borrowed an old one from me this morning."—New York World.

REVIVAL OF THE BULLFINCH.

Little Red-Breasted Songster Enjoying Great Popularity.

In the usual course of change in fashions, which affect the choice of pets just as much as they affect taste in dress, literature and drama, that old favorite the piping bullfinch is coming into high favor in New York just now. The bullfinch is "the parrot of the temperate zone," not because he ever learns to talk, like his tropical prototype, but because, having no "wood notes wild" of his own, he can learn to whistle human music and often distinguishes himself as a soloist. A leading New York bird seller who is now doing a flourishing business in bullfinches last week gave this account of the bullfinch revival: "They used to be favorite pets on the other side; I don't know that they were ever before very popular here. Of course, the bullfinch is not an American bird, but a native of Europe. Some of those I import come from England, but more from Germany. As you know, a fashion like that is generally set going by some notable or another. In this case the German kaiser is responsible. Bullfinches are a hobby with him; he has six of them that whistle 'Die Wacht am Rhein' in chorus, and now some of my men from over there tell me he has a new bird learning to whistle a song which has lately become popular in Germany—'Kruger is a Bully Boy.'" This somewhat startling indication of the kaiser's international tendencies, the dealer said, has not yet got into print on this side of the Atlantic.

"But," he added, "we in the trade are far ahead of the papers on all that kind of news." The consignments of birds are brought over from Germany under the care of a regular professional "vogelhandler." The great field for gathering bullfinches is said to be the duchy of Hesse. There the birds are taken, unfledged, from the nests and patiently taught to whistle their little repertoires while they are still young. The old story that needles are thrust into their eyes to make them sing better is ridiculed by the dealers, who say that nothing but petting will make a bullfinch a good performer. "You can't do anything with them by punishment. Even a cross word will upset a bullfinch and make him sulky. As for putting out their eyes, to say nothing of the cruelty of it, it would ruin a bird's appearance and destroy his market value."—New York Tribune.

THE TRANSVAAL EXHIBIT.

In spite of its bloody war with Great Britain the South African Republic has had time to plan and complete a building at the coming Paris Exposition and make it ready for the Transvaal exhibit. Every visitor to the great exposition will be specially interested in this display. The chief feature of the exhibit will be a collection of native minerals, including the gold ores of the Rand and west diamonds. The exhibit will also contain specimens of the agricultural industry of the Transvaal, such as fruit and cereals. A collection of hunting trophies, including the skins of lions, leopards and other wild animals, will show what the Boers have had to encounter in their march north.



THE TRANSVAAL BUILDING AT THE PARIS EXPOSITION.

through the wilderness. The building has two stories, with a central tower and cupolas on the corners.

At Last a Self-Regulating Clock.

A really noteworthy invention is a clock that has run without winding since August, 1898. It was designed by P. M. Ravenskilde of Illinois, who claims that it has received absolutely no attention since the initiatory tick. The clock is run with a wheel of sixty inches in circumference, and from the outside of the wheel are suspended one hundred and twenty cups, forty of which contain steel balls three-eighths of an inch in diameter. Every minute and a half, as the wheel turns by the weight of the balls, one of them falls out of its cup and rolls down an inclined plane twenty inches long, when by its weight it reunites a broken circuit of electricity and is elevated by a little car traveling along another inclined plane to the top of the wheel, where it falls into a cup. After the wheel discharges its cargo it is carried back to its original station by its weight. From cup to cup a ball travels three feet. The electricity used is generated by an ordinary storage battery, and requires no attention for a year or more.

Value of Soap as a Disinfectant.

Soap is an important health factor. White almond soap and potash soap are claimed to destroy cholera germs. In all germ diseases soap is the best soap in washing is recommended by physicians. It is not only the best of dirt and grease, but the best of soap, but the destruction of germs is guaranteed and germ is destroyed.