NORTHWEST RANCH LIFE.

Dr. D. McEachran on Ranching and the Ranch Country.

The "Champagne" Air of Alberta—The Ancient Winter Home of the Extinct Buffalo—Where Cattle Prosper.

In a lecture delivered in Montreal recently on "Ranching and Ranch Life," Dr. D. McEachran said:—To those who have not visited the vast regions west of Manitoba traversed by our great national railway, the Canadian Pacific, commonly known as the Northwest territories, we may convey some idea of this very extensive country by maps and statements of superficial areas, but only those who have not only travelled across the vast prairies, on the railway, but have travelled on wagon, buckboard, or better still, on horseback for weeks over the seemingly interminable grass land, can form any idea of how extensive an inheritance the Government of Canada acquired by purchase for a few thousands of dollars. A reference to the map will show the stretch of country, about 850 miles between Winnipeg and Calgary, known as the great prairie, extending from the boundary line north for probably 1,500 miles—in which are to be found millions of acres, if not miles, of land presenting every diversity of surface—prairies, where the black loam is eight feet deep, hills, valleys, mountain ranges, lakes and rivers, of vast extent—a rich inheritance indeed awaiting only men and money to utilize its great resources. It is a very minute portion of this great territory, however, that we have to do with to-night, that narrow strip of country skirting the Rocky mountains and forming the foot hills of the great mountain ranges, extending, let us say, from the boundary line for 250 miles north and 75 to 100 miles east, forming the southwestern portion of the district of Alberta known as

THE "RANCHING COUNTRY."

It consists of grass covered hills, with intervening valleys, open stretches of country, forming mature prairies, uplands and plateaux. The land is cut into by numerous coulees and water courses, which change its physical features to a magnificent rolling grass country to which the name prairie is not applicable. In some portions in the lower lying lands and river bottoms, the soil is excellent and every variety of soil is to be found, from the deep loam of the valley to the wind blown and earth denuded gravel or rocky upland on which nothing but the creeping juniper grows. The altitude varies from 2,000 to 5,000 feet above the sea. There is no country in the world that excels this as

A NATURAL GRAZING GROUND.

It is covered with a thick mat of grasses in great variety and wonderful nutritive qualities. The "bunch grass" *Bricona Caspidata*, is most abundant and most prized by stockmen; blue joint, *Agrophyrum Glaucum*, rye grass, wild vetches, peavine and an almost endless variety of highly nutritious grasses cover the range. During most seasons, owing to plentiful rainfall, they grow abundantly; at other times the seasons are dry and grass is scarce. The rarity of the air and dryness of the climate, especially in the fall, cause the grasses to dry and cure on their stalks, making natural hay, which retains its nutritive qualities almost as well as if cut and made hay of, so much so that horses and cattle will not only live and fatten on it, but the former can be ridden or driven long journeys taken right off the grass and do fifty miles at a stretch with more comfort than our grain-fed, stabled horses can do twelve. This foothill country was long the wintering home of the buffalo, which as late as seventeen years ago existed in vast herds on these plains. Captain Twining, chief astronomer on the boundary survey, in his report, mentioning this, says:—"This herd, which ranges from the Missouri river north to the Saskatchewan, made its appearance, going south about the last of August. The number of animals is beyond all estimation. Looking at the front of the herd from an elevation of 1,800 feet above the level of the plain, I was unable to see the end in either direction yet, strange to say, that five years later this vast herd was exterminated." On my first visit to the country in 1881 buffalo bones whitened the plains. A few years previously treaties were made with the Indian tribes, the Blackfeet, Bloods, Piegans and Sarcees. They were allowed to select their reserves where they chose, and they all selected Southern Alberta, because they knew that the buffalo wintered there, and

THEIR HORSES WINTERED THERE

without food, or shelter, except what they found for themselves. The climate, bearing in mind the high altitude and proximity to high mountain ranges, many of the peaks of which carry perpetual snow, is buoyant. You can understand that the air is both dry and rare, in fact it is most exhilarating, has been called "champagne air." One feels buoyant and invigorated when riding through this grand air. In summer at midday the sun may scorch your skin and tan you like an Indian, but seldom indeed are you without a cooling breeze, and you never experience exhaustion or fatigue from it as you do in a more humid climate. The nights are always cool; you seldom require more than three nor less than two pairs of blankets either in or out of doors. During May and June local showers and sometimes severe rainstorms occur. The winter climate is often fine beyond description, a clear, cool atmosphere, dry and bracing; a blue sky and cloudless sunshine will continue for weeks together. At times the thermometer drops as low as thirty degrees below zero, but seldom for longer than three days. Snow sometimes falls six or eight inches, or in bad seasons still deeper, but the constantly prevailing wind blows it off the hillsides, exposing the grass and allowing the stock to feed. The Chinook winds are winds which are produced by thermal changes occurring when the moisture-laden air comes in contact with the low temperature of the snow clad peaks of the mountains, condensation of moisture and rarification of the air producing air currents which descend from the mountains a dry heated wind before which the snow is tossed and twirled into the air, which absorbs it freely. What is not thus taken up is blown into coulees and thus the grass is exposed. I have known of the thermometer rising fifty degrees in a couple of hours; a foot of snow will often disappear in twenty-four hours.

THE STOCKMAN'S SPIRITS RISE

as rapidly as the thermometer when he hears the roar of the welcome wind which comes to save his starving herds.

The destruction of the Ranching Industry Company in Alberta for any possible reason would mean the ruin of the only industry practicable in that district and the withdrawal of five or six millions of dollars; aye, more than that, for any money that is now in circulation in that district has been brought there by the ranching companies or their friends who have been induced to invest through them—and it would also mean the end, for this decade at least, of all investments of outside capital in that country. In selecting a range, natural boundaries are considered, rivers and cutbanks of rivers especially. It is impossible to keep all of the herd on the owner's range or leased land, but an effort should be made to keep as many as possible on their own range. They will seldom cross rivers unless drifting before storms when they are frozen in winter, or in search of better grass in dry seasons when the water is low.

SUSTAINING POWER OF THE LAND.

An average range in Alberta will carry one animal to twenty acres, whereas in Texas twice that acreage is needed. A well watered range will carry a larger percentage than one where there may be more grass on dry uplands, as the cattle will invariably hang round springs or creeks and eat the grass bare and keep themselves poor rather than travel two or three miles for water. Therefore, a rolling country with abundance of water and fair grazing is better than a super-abundance of grass and scarcity of water. Cattle do better in winter when there is some snow on the ground, especially if it is cold enough to freeze the streams or springs, as they are thus, in a measure, independent of water. A medium sized herd, say of 10,000 head, is necessary to make it profitable. The only source of income is from the sale of steers and fat cows, the draft of which from a small herd will not more than meet expenses. The increase of a mixed herd is usually about 25 per cent. of the entire herd or about 60 to 65 per cent. of the cows over three years old. The winter losses may, according to management and seasons, be from 5 to 30 per cent. Winter feeding cannot be practised except for fall calves, weak cows, thoroughbred bulls, and weaklings of the herd. Whoever tries to feed the herd fails as surely as does the manager who neglects to feed the latter. Feeding corrals and wintering enclosures of large area are indispensable.

The lecturer then proceeded to describe the ranch outfit, buildings, horses, men, etc., describing the receiving of a herd driving on the trail, camping, crossing rivers, a notable fact being that cattle will seldom cross a river with the sun in their eyes. A stampede, night herding during bad weather, and other cowboy experiences were described. By explaining the cutting out, branding, roping, cowboy sports, cowboys racing to dinner and a large number of interesting lime light views of ranching and ranch life he concluded the lecture.

PERSONALS.

The present Emperor of China is the first potentate of that country to study the English language.

One hundred and four descendants of Mr. and Mrs. Jacques Morin, of Hull, Quebec, assisted in celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary recently.

The widow of the late Senator Stanford of San Francisco has been granted an allowance of $10,000 per month, pending a settlement of her late husband's estate.

The Princess of Wales has a collection of laces valued at £50,000. The nucleus is a remarkable piece given her by the King of the Belgians at the time of her marriage and valued alone at £11,000.

Dr. Talmage expects to preach his farewell sermon in March, at the Brooklyn Tabernacle, and to start, with his wife and two daughters, on his projected tour of the world about April 1. His itinerary will take him westward to Honolulu, then to New Zealand, Australia, and India.

The novelist Ouida is decidedly plain looking, about fifty years old, and "over dresses shockingly." She drives on the fashionable thoroughfares in Florence every bright day, a gay picture against the turquoise blue satin of her smart brougham, in an orange colored batiste, much trimmed with lace, and a black guipure mantilla.

I said of Mr. Gladstone's private library that it is particularly rich in the classical and theological departments; that there is probably not a single theological work missing which has seen the light since the owner matriculated at Oxford in 1828. Most of these books were presented to him by their authors.

Queen Victoria is in possession of a curious needle. It was made at the celebrated needle manufactory at Redditch, and represents the Trajan Column in miniature. Scenes from the Queen's life are depicted on the needle so finely cut that they are discernable only through a microscope.

Cornelius Vanderbilt works as hard and as regularly as the average poor man. He is at his desk at the Grand Central station at ten o'clock every morning, and is kept busy until late. At night there is always something to do if he has no social engagement. He watches every detail of the thousands of miles of road controlled by his family.

Mr. Thos. Wardrope, now Rev. Dr. Wardrope, of Guelph, was the first head master of the Ottawa Collegiate Institute. He received his appointment from Sir Charles Metcalfe, and during his term of office, which lasted from 1843 to 1846, he was assisted by his brother, the late George Wardrope. Mr. Wardrope's successor in the school was the Rev. John Robb, from 1846 to 1850. He was succeeded by Mr. W. A. Ross, now Judge Ross, of that city, from 1850 to 1856.

Quebec is hardly the place where you would expect to find one of the best collections in America of autograph letters from prominent writers of the present day. Yet it would be difficult to match the collection of George Stewart, the Canadian essayist, who has made his home there for many years. Mr. Stewart has in his possession letters from Emerson, Holmes, Tennyson, Whittier, in fact from nearly all of the great men who have been writing during the past quarter century.

Francesco Crispi, the Italian Premier lives in Rome, in a palace near the famous Piazza de Spagna, or Spanish Square. The mansion has two entrances, which front on two different streets, and are reached by open staircases. The apartments are beautiful, though neither rich nor magnificent as described in some reports of interviews with Crispi. He lived in exile for some years in England and seems to have preserved some British traits of character. He displays, naturally or intentionally, something of the English coldness and indifference, so that nobody would think that his character is like that of his native Sicilian mountain, Etna, a volcano covered with snow.

Ex-Mayor MacIntosh, of Halifax, finds fault with the horses shipped on Saturday as the gift of the ladies of Canada to Princess May. He says:—"I am surprised and shocked to hear that the span of beautiful bay horses which form part of the gift sent from Canada have been mutilated by docking, and the disfiguring stumps of their once beautiful tails are even now raw and sore. As it is well known that her Majesty the Queen is opposed to this disfigurement of one of God's creatures and man's best friends, the Princess will refuse to receive the gift. I feel sure that had it been known in Halifax that a pair of beautiful horses would be tortured and mutilated and sent forward as a portion of our gift, the amount contributed by Halifax would have been very much smaller than it was."

Rev. Richard Whiting, of Kingston, received one of the last, if not actually the last, of the letters dictated by Dr. Douglas. The letter is dated Dec. 22nd. It says:—"Our company before are gone, and we are bringing up the rear, thank God, with the blessed hope of joining the blood besprinkled band. I have had a very hard time for more than three weeks with the grippe. Just when I closed my last lecture this term I received a knock-down. It struck my stomach and feet. I came down to two teaspoons of barley water every twenty minutes, and it will be weeks before I can walk again, but then, as you know, I am a tough customer, and hope, with the aid of a wheel chair to be at work again with the opening year. How ideal your condition is, able to do a little work and compassed about with so much comfort, temporal and spiritual!"

Mr. T. C. Weston, F.G.S.A., has just finished his thirty-five years of service in connection with the Geographical Survey department at Ottawa. He was brought out from England by Sir Wm. Logan in February, 1859, as an expert and skilled lapidary. During his long and faithful service, both under Sir William and under Dr. Selwyn, the present director, Mr. Weston has occupied several positions of trust as librarian and field explorer, and has always been noted as a careful and successful collector of fossil remains. The large number of beautiful specimens collected by Mr. Weston now on exhibition in the palaeontological branch of the museum, will be a standing monument to his researches, provided they are not burned up in the wooden building in which they are at present housed. Mr. Weston has for years had charge of the ethnological branch and given considerable time to the management and classification of the contents of that department.

HEROIC TESTS OF ANTIDOTES.

Doctors Have on Occasion Deliberately Placed Their Own Lives in Jeopardy.

There is no difference of opinion among doctors as to the heroism displayed by Dr. William Moor, the specialist on therapeutics, who has discovered that permanganate of potassium is an antidote for morphine poisoning, and proved it the other day when he counteracted the effects of what ordinarily would be a fatal dose of morphine by swallowing his new found antidote. Some of the doctors who were present left the room. Those who remained had the opportunity of congratulating him on his discovery and self-confidence. Such cases are not uncommon. Almost all successful physicians have, at some time, placed their lives in jeopardy to experiment on themselves. Drugs, poisons and narcotics are the favorite subjects of experiments, and physicians boast that many obscure heroes have laid down their lives in the interest of science because their calculations failed. A Brooklyn physician, while travelling in France with his wife, was forced to go through the cholera districts some years ago. He had a new theory of his own for the cure of cholera, and his wife was in a fever of dread over the chance of infection. This man inoculated himself with the germs of cholera, and then, with two paid attendants, isolated himself from the rest of the world and put his theory into practice, having left minute directions for his treatment before delirium set in. In a week he was cured. Shortly after his wife was stricken and he confidently applied his remedy. His wife died and he never again tried his discovery. To this day he does not know whether his experiment was a success or not. But it was none the less heroic.

ANOTHER BOMB IN PARIS.

The City Again in a State of Terror.

A Small Hotel the Scene of the Outrage—Three Persons Injured, One Seriously—Two Strangers Left the Bomb and Went Their Way.

A Paris special says:—A bomb exploded at about 2 o'clock the other morning in a small hotel, No. 69 Rue St. Jacques. The hotel is situated in the rear of the College of France. The proprietress of the place, a woman named Calabresi, and two lodgers, were injured. Yesterday afternoon two strangers, one of whom gave his name as Rairique, inquired for apartments in the hotel. They were shown a room on the second floor, which they declared satisfactory, and they engaged it. They spent a short time in the room and then left, remarking casually as they passed out that they would be back in the evening. They did not return, however, and Mme. Calabresi, who had become slightly suspicious of her new lodgers, went to their room to see if they had brought any luggage. The hotel keeper was alarmed by seeing a bomb lying on a shelf in the room. Without waiting to examine it she ran from the room and immediately sent for the police. While waiting for the coming of the officers, Mme. Calabresi told two of her lodgers of her discovery, and in company with them went to the room. As the door of the room was opened there was a terrific explosion, which made a wreck of the room and everything in it. Every window pane in the house was blown to atoms. The landlady and the two lodgers with her were badly injured. Had they had time to enter the room they would have been killed.

Notwithstanding the early hour, the news of the outrage spread, and the streets in the vicinity were soon swarming with people. The greatest excitement prevailed. The police arrived promptly and a cordon was established about the hotel, through which nobody save officers were allowed to pass.

There are three theories to account for the explosion. One is that the bomb had a time fuse attached to it, though as far as can be learned no smoke was seen ascending anywhere in the vicinity of the bomb. Another is that the bomb contained some acid solution that soaked through cotton or other material until it reached the explosive in the bottom of the infernal machine. The third is that the opening of the door destroyed the equilibrium of the bomb, which, tippling over, fell to the floor, exploding by concussion.

As yet the police have not the slightest clue to the identity of the miscreants who placed the bomb in the room. The excitement caused by this outrage was added to when it was ascertained this forenoon that an attempt had been made to blow up, or at least injure, the buildings of the Minister of Foreign Affairs on the Quai d'Orsay. A metal tube was found lying at the entrance of the foreign office, which it was suspected was loaded with dynamite. The tube was turned over to the police, who will have its contents examined.

A bomb, similar to the one that exploded in the hotel at No 69 Rue St. Jacques, was discovered in another small hotel at 67 Faubourg St. Martin. Fortunately the latter bomb was found and safely removed before any damage had been done. It is believed, and all the evidence thus far secured points to the conclusion, that the two men who caused the outrage at the first mentioned hotel were carrying out a plot to cause explosions in hotels in different parts of the city. A close search will be made of all the hotels, large and small, to see if the men have left bombs in any others.

HOTELS ALRE[illegible] PERIL.

The hotels are already sufferers from the scare caused by the anarchists, and it is probable that the latest demonstrations of the willingness of the anarchists to spread the "propaganda" by the act, will cause a further falling off in their receipts. The police are at their wits' end to discover the perpetrators of the Rue de Jacques outrage. The people are beginning to lose confidence in the authorities being able to put an end to the anarchist crimes. It was only yesterday that domiciliary visits were made to 150 houses occupied by anarchists, and the net result was the seizure of a lot of literature, but no explosives. The steps taken in connection with this morning's explosion is thought by the general public to indicate that the police are powerless to prevent the anarchists from manufacturing and using explosives.

Winter Clothing.

In writing about "Clothing as a Protection Against Cold," Doctor Robson Roose, an English authority, lays much stress on three points that are too generally disregarded. Not clothing but plenty of exercise and proper food are the sources of bodily warmth; clothing does not give warmth, but only retains that of the body. Therefore at least one hour a day should be devoted to active exercise, after which a cold bath should be taken, if possible, and a change of underclothing certainly.

One heavy garment of any kind is not so effective in retaining bodily heat as two much lighter garments of that kind. Between separate garments, lies a layer of air warmed from the body, and as still air is an excellent non-conductor of heat, it keeps the body's from radiation, or going away on the moving outer air.

Another advantage of thin woolen garments is that they can be easily reduced or multiplied in number worn to suit changes of weather. Many athletic men value this advantage greatly, and wear two or three light overcoats, instead of one heavy one in severely cold weather. When a thaw comes they lay one or more off, and so escape the overheating and sweating from which the heavy-coated suffer during warm winter spells.

The Japanese and Chinese both understand this principle well, and go clad in thin garments, each layer fortified like its fellow. They reduce or add to the number of layers according to the degree of outer cold.

Moderately loose garments retain the body's warmth much better than tight ones, simply because the loose includes more air that the body has warmed.

Again, a loosely woven fabric is better than one woven closely. This is not commonly appreciated enough by civilized people, who are apt to choose close-woven, thick garments for winter wear. The American Northwest Indian knows better. He goes clad in blankets, and his squaw weaves him, from small peltries, a coarse robe that is wonderfully effective.

The rabbit or squirrel or sometimes gopher skins are cut into strips with the hair or fur on, and those strips are woven crisscross so loosely that a finger can easily be poked through. Yet in such a robe one can sleep in a tent without fire on a far-below zero night and feel positively hot. So, if "By, oh, Baby Bunting's" mother got that sort of a rabbit-skin to wrap Baby Bunting in, the infant was well protected.

Revealed by Death.

"Life is perfected by death," and it is also revealed. A story told in the "Life of Sir Richard Burton" illustrates the closeness with which death reveals a man to his comrades.

A lieutenant in a British regiment was honest, steady, quiet and full of sterling qualities; but he was dull, reserved and religiously inclined. His brother officers laughed at him, and associated but little with him. Though well-born, he was poor, and had no powerful friends. He therefore remained without promotion or society; but he never complained and did his best.

A battery was to be taken in the Crimea, and the lieutenant's regiment was selected as the storming party. It assaulted and was driven back. The lieutenant rallied his own company, and with a laugh flung his shako before him, and rushed through the breach into the battery, followed by a handful of men. They never came out again.

That night at the regimental mess there was not a man but regretted that he had not better understood the officer whose gallant death had revealed his superiority. All remembered a thousand good qualities and incidents which ought to have endeared him to them. They were ashamed of the contempt with which they had treated him, and of the fact that they had never shown him the least kindness.

The Sultan of Turkey has issued an imperial decree to the effect that three copies of every book and pamphlet on any subject whatsoever that has been printed or published in any language in any part of his dominions, from the time he first ascended to the throne to the present day, are to be sent to the Imperial Palace, and one copy to the new library at the Sublime Porte, which is now being built by his Majesty's orders.

BRIGHT AND BREEZY.

On the average the potato crop of the island of Jersey is yearly worth to the growers about three and a half millions sterling.

There are 210 angling clubs in London and suburbs, with a membership of 12,000.

The amount of space European troops cover on the road is, as a rule, 2,000 men to a mile.

Cornelius Vanderbilt, it is said, has given $1,000,000 for religious purposes during the last two years.

According to the latest returns the number of schools in Basutoland is 113, with an enrolment of 6,921 scholars.

The German army tent is divisible into two portions, each of which can be converted into an overcoat in case of rain.

The deepest bore hole in the world is at Schladebach, near Kothan, Germany. It is 5,735ft. in depth, and is for geological research only.

After an experience of close on thirty years, Sir John Lubbock has arrived at the conclusion that to enter the House of Commons may be a duty, but it certainly is not a pleasure.

The little King of Spain, being now in the eyes of the Court a responsible personage, has bachelor quarters of his own in the palace, the apartments being those formerly occupied by his father.

The most noted shot among English women is Lady Eva Quinn, wife of Captain Wyndham, heir-presumptive to the Earl of Dunraven. She has killed six full-grown tigers from the frail shelter of a howdah.

It is said that 80,000 ferns alone are uprooted and sold from the Cheviots yearly. Botanists assert that unless something is done the rarer flora of Northumberland and the Border will soon become extinct.

Flowers and vegetables, being "perishable," may be hawked without a license; seeds may not. This is the result of a case at a London police court.

The Queen is very fond of spinning. Her wheel was presented to her some twenty years ago, and she was taught the art by an old Highland woman.

In China they tie a red cord around a baby's wrist, so that it may grow up quiet and obedient. Should a child turn out bad, they say, "his parents forgot to bind his wrists."

"Artificial rabbits" are the latest device of Parisian street vendors. The skin of a real bunny is filled out with potato-flour so ingeniously as to deceive even the most wary housewife.

The shipbuilding trade of the Mersey was, during 1893, marked with unparalleled depression, the tonnage turned out only amounting to 8,000, as compared with 39,000 in the previous year.

About forty tons of letters daily pass through the hands of the officials at the London Post Office. It is a rare thing for one of these letters to go astray.

During last year 12,342 persons were received in Pentonville Prison, and there were only five deaths. The prison is therefore described as the healthiest spot in London.

The British Museum contains many rare and beautiful snuff-boxes of the last century, plain and enamelled, made of horn, silver and gold, simple and complicated; large and small.

In 1659, the consumption of alcohol in France was 535,000 hectolitres of alcohol, or 1.46 litres per head of the population. It has now risen to 1,660,184 hectolitres, or 4.40 litres per head.

Statistics show that there are in the United States more than six million farms, upon which dwell over 30 million people, who furnish more than 74 per cent. of the value of the exports of that country.

Perhaps the lowest death-rate in any English parish last year was that at Bitton, Bristol, where, with a population of 1,200, there have been but three deaths (two of which were children) in the past fourteen months.

The Queen usually signs about 50,000 documents a year. For her age the Queen lives a very busy life. She rises at half past seven, has prayers at eight, after which she walks for an hour, and then works with her secretary until two o'clock.

In California it has been found that peach stones burn as well as the best coal, and give out more heat in proportion to weight. The stones taken out of the fruit that is tinned or dried are collected, and sold at the rate of $15 per ton. Apricot stones also burn, but not so well as peach, and do not command so good a price.

The most marked peculiarity of the late Earl of Lovelace was his great love for trees. He was always planting on his estates near Leatherhead, and would hardly permit a tree to be cut down, so that the tenants used to grumble, declaring that the excessive timber kept the sun from their crops and retarded their growth.

The Empress of China has established her own private silk looms in the palace at Pekin. One of the motives which induced her to take this step was the desire to provide work for some of the many women and girls of China anxious but unable to earn their living. The looms and several experienced weavers have been sent to Pekin from the imperial silk factory at Hang-chow.

When Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the well-known millionaire, is in Scotland, he is followed about by begging letters from all quarters. Were he to grant all the applications for money, he would not be able to buy his own dinner. Letters from charity associations, urgent appeals from ministers for donations towards the schemes of their congregations, letters from impecunious persons of all descriptions, await him at his breakfast.

The Bishop of Rochester is the Queen's favourite spiritual adviser. He is young for a bishop, being now only 45 years old. He is somewhat ascetic in manner, but is an ardent horseman, and used, when Dean of Windsor, to take his morning rides in the Royal Park.

The Sultan of Turkey has purchased two manuscripts containing two epistles ascribed to Mohammed the prophet. M. Barbthian, a Frenchman, the owner of the manuscripts, received four thousand pounds for his property. The contents of the epistles, it is said, may have great influence on the Mohammedan world.

Mrs. Gladstone at Christmas unfailingly sends the Queen some of her mince-pies, of which the Queen once expressed her strong approval. Mrs. Gladstone takes an old-fashioned pride in her mincemeat, the making of which she personally superintends, and her favoured friends look forward to the receipt of a parcel of these seasonable dainties at Christmas time.

England's Books for '93.

It appears that the total number of books published in 1893 was 6,382. This, however, is 150 below the number of the previous year. If we distinguish between new books and new editions the numbers are of new books 5,129 as compared with 4,915 in 1892. The new works of fiction have fallen from 1,147 to 935, but this is probably due to some differences in classification as many works probably classed before as fiction now go to swell the list of "juvenile works and tales," which have made an otherwise astonishing rise from 292 to 659.

In an advance sheet of The Publishers' Circular, from which we gather these facts, this is the explanation given. In political economy there is a falling off from 151 to 71. Voyages and travels are nearly the same as the previous year—about 250—while works of history and biography are slightly fewer. There is a small increase in volumes of poetry, as also in year books and serial volumes. Medical and surgical works are not so numerous. This remark applies also to belles lettres.—[London Daily Telegraph.

Jack—"Do you believe in the transmigration of souls, Joe?" Joe—"What's that, Jack?" Jack—"Why, for instance, that that cow has had a prior existence in another form—perhaps been a being like myself." Joe—"Oh, no doubt the cow's been a calf."

Thompson (reading an exchange)—"Ancient instruments of torture are exhibited at the museum." Johnson (whose wife is an amateur musician)—"I wonder if they've got any place to exhibit modern instruments of torture?" "Don't know. Why?" "Nothing; only I thought, if they did I'd send 'em my wife's accordion."

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SUCCESS.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association.

$17,684,333.86 Paid to Widows and Orphans.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM. MUTUAL PRINCIPLE.

The Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association, which was held in New York recently, was an occasion of such world-wide interest that the report of its proceedings is attracting attention all over the American Continent, and in many parts of the Old Country, Europe and the Colonies. These annual gatherings have always proved to be events of no small importance in the financial and commercial world, but the last meeting surpassed in interest all its predecessors. To begin with, the record of the stupendous success of the institution, as revealed in a general way by the report of President Harper, was almost sensational in its character. Marvellous as has been the progress of this association in public favor and its accomplishment of results, the figures would seem almost incredible without the authentic endorsation of State officials, and the representations of men holding high fiduciary relations to the community. Throughout at least twelve years of the thirteen years of its existence the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association has had to wage a warfare for the maintenance of its own life in a degree which at times suggested the absolute hopelessness of the undertaking. It has travelled steadfastly, however, along the line of natural premium system, and each succeeding twelve months its reports of results have astonished, if they have not turned grey, the heads of life insurance experts themselves all over the world.

Canadians Present.

The meeting was attended by representative men from all over the world, and among them the following Canadians were noticed: Messrs. D. E. Cameron, Deputy Provincial Treasurer for Ontario; David Gillies, M.P.P., Carleton Place; W. E. Wellington, nurseryman, Toronto; F. N. Tennant, lumberman, Toronto; W. P. McMahon, barrister, Belleville; T. W. Chapple, barrister, Uxbridge; E. P. Johnson, L'Orignal; W. J. Murray, Brooklin; R. W. Sutherland, Toronto; William Green, Toronto; D. Z. Bezette, Montreal; W. J. McMurtry, Toronto; Col. Domville, St. John, N.B. The following letters of regret at unavoidable absence were read from Warring Kennedy, Mayor of Toronto, and Dr. Oronhyatekha, Supreme Chief Ranger of the Independent Order of Foresters.

SAMSON, KENNEDY & Co.,
WHOLESALE IMPORTERS,
TORONTO, January 23, 1894.

F. B. Harper, Esq., President Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association, Broadway, New York, U.S.A.:

My Dear Mr. Harper,—I am profoundly sorry that I cannot do myself the pleasure of accompanying the brethren from Toronto, who leave to-day to attend the annual meeting of the Mutual Reserve. I have so many things to attend to this week in connection with municipal and other matters that I find it impossible to get away.

I must confess I am quite disappointed in not being able to see you all at the annual meeting of 1894. I hope that you will have a harmonious and jubilant meeting. The success during 1893 was great indeed, at which I rejoice. You can always rely upon my loyalty to the Mutual Reserve. With kind regards to all, believe me, very sincerely yours,

WARRING KENNEDY,
Mayor of Toronto.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,
INDEPENDENT ORDER OF FORESTERS,
TORONTO, Canada, Jan. 22, 1894.

W. J. McMurtry, Esq., General Manager Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association, Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sir and Bro.—I regret that, owing to several important matters coming up in connection with our Order in Illinois and Indiana, requiring immediate attention, I am again compelled to forego the pleasure of accompanying you to New York to attend the annual meeting of the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association. I need not say that I am very much disappointed, as I had expected to learn very much from attendance at said meeting.

It is not necessary that I should assure you that I have every faith in the system of the Mutual Reserve, especially when its affairs are administered by that Prince of Finance and Insurance, our President, Mr. Harper. The fact that I carry a policy for $20,000 is sufficient evidence of my faith both in the system and in the manner in which our affairs are administered. Yours sincerely,

ORONHYATEKHA.

President Harper's thirteenth annual report was a model and able document. It was a plain, unvarnished tale of relief to widows and orphans, showing that during the year nearly three millions of dollars had been disbursed, and after doing this noble work President Harper's report said in part:

"Our assets were never so large as to-day; our surplus never so great; our new business larger than ever recorded in any previous year; our net increase of business simply phenomenal; our payments to the widows and orphans exceed that ever before disbursed in any previous twelve months; our future never so bright."

With the work of the year 1893 accomplished, the result is that the Mutual Reserve has in force a total business of over **$262,000,000.00**; death claims paid in 1893, **$2,851,355.23**; assets, **$5,138,516.36**; liabilities, **$2,136,496.81**; net surplus over all liabilities, **$3,002,019.55**; total membership of the association, **82,716**.

Considering the comparative youth of the Mutual Reserve, it shows at the thirteenth year of its growth a strength unequalled by any other life insurance corporation in the world. The reports of its officers read like the fancy of a Victor Hugo; they tell of pluck and perseverance, of opposition overcome, of perseverance of business sagacity and of success. All previous life insurance records are put in the shade, while the healthy financial condition of the association was guaranteed by the certificate from President Olcott, of the Central Trust Company, showing to a cent how the assets of the Mutual Reserve are invested, gilt-edged securities, comprising principally first mortgages on first-class New York real estate.

Years ago President Harper demonstrated beyond question the soundness of this system of life insurance, and the security and saving it offered to members. He was the first life insurance official who had the courage—and it took courage at the period we refer to—to denounce the pernicious system of investment banking with life insurance. He was assailed by the old line companies for the position he took up. The whole machinery of a subsidized press was put in motion against him, but opposition only made the people's advocate more courageous in his fight against a great wrong, and for cheap life insurance for the masses.

It is not at all strange that the tirade of the paid press against him and his revolutionary plan assumed sharper and sharper tones as he earned a foothold, then a standing, and later advanced toward the front in this great business of life insurance; for his new plan struck at the very foundation of their strength, it threatened their most lucrative business, it was a standing nightmare. No money, no influence was withheld to strangle it at its birth, to check it in its early days, to crush it in its youth, to destroy it in its growing strength and manhood. But President Harper could not be bought, nor would he move an inch from the course he had mapped out for himself and his association. He won the battle, and he divorced investment banking from simple and pure life insurance, and gave the public what they asked—life insurance at cost—or at half the price they were paying the old line companies.

Thinking people were not slow to grasp the honesty of President Harper's system. They wanted insurance at cost. They objected to subjecting themselves to a contract that forced them to become investors and placed their investments out of their control, and put restrictions upon their rights and ownership in these investments, and this is just what the level premium companies do to their policy-holders.

Not so the Mutual Reserve Fund. It offers its policy holders insurance at cost. The only reserve it accumulates is incidental, yet it is large enough to meet all necessities and cover all risks. The association is in every detail, in every conception, a mutual insurance association. The cost of management and the cost of death claims is equitably distributed among its thousands of members. As its risks are most carefully drawn, its death claims fall far below the figures of the mortality tables. As they are distributed all over the world they are brought to the general average, and are not liable to sudden increases and decreases.

By reducing the premium rates charged to members to harmonize with the payments to the widows and orphans for death claims, more than thirty-five million dollars have already been saved to the members of the Mutual Reserve.

President Harper may well be proud of the glorious success of the Mutual Reserve. His master mind, his indomitable will, his untiring energy, his mature judgment has overcome all obstacles, and placed his association a giant among giants in the insurance world. Yet he has so managed the business and organized it that it is to-day a great machine, dependent upon no one, two or twenty men to perpetuate its life and its activity. This has been accomplished by bringing together in the management active, energetic, honest, reliable business men, whose judgment and work in their especial fields is unexcelled.

President Harper made reference to the splendid work done during the year by the thousands of agents of the Association scattered throughout the world. Prizes have been offered to the six men who would bring in the greatest volume of business in the twelve months, and three out of the six were carried off by Canadians, viz., the third by A. R. McNichol, Winnipeg; the fourth by J. T. Kirk, St. John, N.B., and the sixth by W. J. Murray, Brooklin.

Treasurer J. W. Vrooman's report showed that among the securities of the company there is over $100,000 worth of Dominion bonds deposited with the Insurance Department at Ottawa as security to the Canadian policyholders. The reports of the other officers were fully as satisfactory and conclusive.

The report of J. Douglas Wells, third vice-president, showed that $5,642,000 of new business was received from Canada alone.

After the presentation of the reports Mr. D. E. Cameron, Deputy Provincial Treasurer of Ontario, proposed, seconded by Mr. David Gillies, M.P.P., of Carleton Place, the following resolution:

"That the thanks of the Canadian members of the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association are due, and are hereby tendered to President Harper and those associated with him, for the unexampled success of its operations during the past year—the banner year of its existence—notwithstanding the severe financial depression that has existed throughout the world, and we hereby desire to express our unreserved confidence in the Association and its management."

In speaking to the resolution Mr. Cameron made an address full of vigor and spirit. He was sorry that Mayor Kennedy, who generally was the spokesman for Canadians, was unable to be present. Canadians knew the solidity of the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association, and appreciated its management. The witty speech of Col. James Domville, of St. John, New Brunswick, closed the meeting, which was then adjourned.

The managers for Canada are as follows:

For the Province of Ontario—Mr. W. J. McMurtry, Mail building, Toronto.

For the Province of Quebec—Mr. D. Z. Bezette, 12 Place d'Armes, Montreal.

For Manitoba and the North-west Territories—Mr. A. R. McNichol, McIntyre Block, Winnipeg.

For the Province of New Brunswick—Col. James Domville, St. John, N.B.

Irish Diplomacy.

Traveller in Ireland—Hello, Micky! How far is it to the next town?

Micky—Don't know, sur.

Traveller—You don't know! But you have an idea?

Micky—Begorra, a man may have an idea, and not know. Now I'm after havin' an idea that you're a poor fool, but I don't know.

JUST LIKE POOR LO.

Native Australians Shiftless, Aimless, Fond of Liquor.

For many years there has been an annual distribution of blankets and other necessaries to native Australians, says a writer in Chambers' Journal. Mission stations have also been established by government and private funds in different parts of the country, where as many of the blacks as are willing to conform to the mild rules laid down for the conduct of the establishment are housed, fed and taught. Their want of constraint and their instinct for a free, roaming life, however, generally weigh more heavily than does even their liking for regular rations and a lazy life. The majority prefer to become hangers-on about the townships and stations, eking out existence by begging and doing odd jobs. Every station and township has its little band of black fellows and their "gins," who wander about in wonderful assortments of the cast off clothing of the whites, begging from everyone and not always clearly distinguishing between "meum" and "tuum." "Baccy" and sixpences are what they most favor, but nothing at all comes wrong. The men and women are alike inordinately fond of tobacco and intoxicants. This

FONDNESS FOR DRINK

has had not a little to do with their downfall. It is a pitiable sight to see the poor creatures loafing about the hotels, begging and praying for the maddening poison which they know too well is fast destroying them. Once having acquired the vices of the whites, their ruin is swift. A few, but not many, are employed as cattlemen, shepherds and general help about the stations. They are also drafted into the police force as mounted troopers and trackers, and have done and are doing some splendid service in hunting down criminals who escape to the bush. Many are fine runners and athletes, but since abandoning the old wild life their prowess in those respects is waning. Mission work among the blacks cannot be said to have been successful. Undoubtedly good work has been done by the devoted missionaries who have spent their lives trying to raise and enlighten the native tribes. The low type of intellect, the shiftless, aimless life, the wandering habits, the traditional instincts of the aborigines and the too often evil example set them by the rough settlers have been hard to overcome.

An English bishop preaches regularly in his sleep.

America's Terra Incognita.

Lower California, which somebody periodically threatens to purchase and bring under territorial dominion of the United States, is the longest of North American peninsulas. It is of about the same area as Florida. Its greatest length is about 800 miles and its greatest width about 145 miles. The whole peninsula is subtropical in climate and productions, and its extreme southern end is just within the torrid zone. The coast line on gulf and ocean is about 1,700 miles in length. The population is sparse and the means of communication so undeveloped that it is one of the most remote regions in the civilized world. The gulf ports are almost unknown to people of this country.

Nerve Pain Cure.

Polson's Nerviline cures flatulence, chills, and spasms. Nerviline cures vomiting, diarrhea, cholera, and dysentery. Nerviline cures headache, sea sickness and summer complaint. Nerviline cures neuralgia, toothache, lumbago, and sciatica. Nerviline cures sprains, bruises, cuts, &c. Polson's Nerviline is the best remedy in the world, and only costs 10 and 25 cents to try it. Sample and large bottles at any drug store. Try Polson's Nerviline.

Joe—"These fountain-pen makers will never be affected by the income tax." Bob—"Why not?" Joe—"Because they never make enough ink come-to be taxed."

"You think," said Willie Washington, "that it actually hurts a man to be hit with one of Cupid's arrows?" "No," replied Belle Pepperton; "as a rule he merely becomes senseless for a time."

CURE THAT COUGH WITH SHILOH'S CURE
TAKE THE BEST
25cts., 50cts. and $1.00 Bottle. One cent a dose.
It is sold on a guarantee by all druggists. It cures Incipient Consumption and is the Best Cough and Croup Cure.

LATE BRITISH NEWS.

The King of Portugal has just effected an insurance on his life of £40,000 with an English office, the risk being subdivided among several companies.

London's debt was increased last year by £1,200,000, and now amounts to £3[illegible],000. The revenue of the city for the last fiscal year was £4,623,000.

A new free public library, to contain 80,000 volumes, is building in Manchester. This will give the city a total of [illegible],000 volumes, housed in five libraries, for free public use.

The British Volunteer forces numbered 219,300 efficients during last year, an increase of 2,000 over 1892, and 5,000 over 1891.

Arrangements are said to have been made with Mr. Irving and Mme. Patti for some performance of opera at the Lyceum, London, during the coming summer, [illegible] Patti as the star singer.

Dr. Granger, of Chester, who was [illegible] to London a month ago to advise Mr. Gladstone concerning his sight, says [illegible] not find anything in the condition [illegible] Gladstone's eyesight to prevent him remaining in office. I found that his general health was exceedingly good.

A notable illustration of the depreciation in recent years in the value of English estates is in the fact that the estate of [illegible], the seat of the late Maharajah Duleep Singh, which was offered for sale in 1876, and an offer of £390,000 for it refused, was sold a few days since for £150,000.

The bite of a strange cat, which he had casually stroked, and which turned on him, caused the death of a young man in London two weeks ago. The bite healed, and he had almost forgotten the occurrence, when a month later symptoms of hydrophobia developed, and he died in convulsions a few days later.

"Plebiscite programmes" are a popular fad at concerts in Great Britain this winter. The audience at any one concert is invited to indicate, on blanks attached to the programmes, the works they would like to hear at the next concert. The decision is by the majority vote. The idea was original with the late Dr. Von Bulow and is [illegible] be successful.

Oil has been struck in Somerset, England. Complaint was made about the water for drinking purposes from a spring and investigation showed the presence of petroleum. The discovery may have commercial importance, and investigations to determine whether the oil exists in paying quantity are being made.

The total gold output of the colony of Victoria, Australia, during last year was 707,367 ounces of the value of about [illegible]000,000. This was 44,000 ounces more than the yield in 1892, and the largest since [illegible]. The gold exported from Cape Colony, Africa, during last year was 1,490,736 ounces, valued at about $26,259,000.

"If all the gold in mint or bank,
All earthly things that men call wealth,
Were mine, with every titled rank,
I'd give them all for precious health."

Thus in anguish wrote a lady teacher to a near friend, telling of pitiless headaches, smarting pain, of pain in back and [illegible], dejection, weakness and nervous [illegible] unrest. The friend knew both cause and cure and flashed back the answer, "Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription." The distressed teacher obeyed, was restored to perfect health, and her daily duties once more became a daily pleasure. For teachers, salesladies and others kept standing, or broken-down by exhausting work, the "Prescription" is a most potent restorative tonic, and a certain cure for female weakness. *Guaranteed* to give [illegible] every case or money returned. See printed guarantee around each bottle.

Fibroid, ovarian and other Tumors cured without resort to surgery. Book, with numerous references, sent on receipt of 10 cents in stamps. World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N.Y.

There are eight edible and twelve poisonous varieties of mushrooms in the United States.

In 10 MINUTES THE MOST EXCRUCIATING PAIN has been allayed and CURED by use of ST. JACOBS OIL.

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LATEST IMPROVED. GREATEST VARIETY. PRICES RIGHT.
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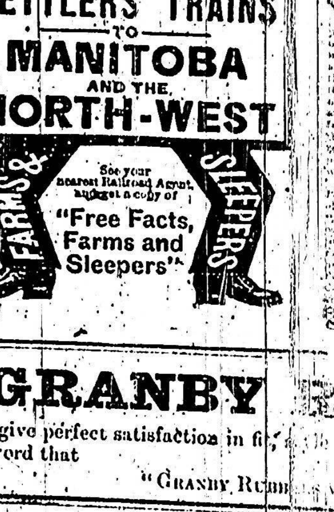

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They give perfect satisfaction in fit, [illegible] and it [illegible] word that "GRANBY RUBB[illegible]"

How He Explained It.

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THE TROUBL

CHAPTER IV.