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Grand Trunk Extension. The announcement has been made on the authority of Mr. Hays, Manager of the Grand

Trunk Railway, that the directors of the G. T. Company have decided upon so extending that road's connections as to make it a transcontinental line. The details of the plan of extension, so far as yet made known, are not very definite. It is said, however, that the work will be pushed forward energetically, and Mr. Hays anticipates that in the course of five years the Grand Trunk will have connection with the Pacific Coast. The route westward, so far as indicated, is to be from North Bay or Gravenhurst, on the present G. T. line, through that portion of northern Ontario familiarly known as New Ontario, through Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Assiniboia, Alberta, via Peace River or Pine River Passes, and through British Columbia to either Bute Inlet or Port Simpson on the Pacific coast, as may be determined later on. There is said to be a probability that an arrangement will be made by which sections of road, comprising in all some 1,500 miles and controlled by Mackenzie and Mann as a part of the Canadian Northern line, will become a part of the system through which the Grand Trunk is to obtain connection with the Pacific. It is impossible to say how much truth there may be in this report. Mackenzie and Mann are understood to deny that any such arrangement has been made with them, but this may not mean that there are no negotiations toward such an end in progress. In any event, we are told, the new road will not be under the same management or the same corporate name as the present Grand Trunk system. The scheme has of course the approval of the Grand Trunk Directors and probably many shareholders in that company will invest in the new enterprise, but it is said the control will be in a Board located in Canada, and the men who shall principally promote and control the new line need not be Grand Trunk shareholders. The general opinion among men who should be qualified to form an opinion in the matter appears to be, that the scheme of another transcontinental road is no visionary or ill-considered project. The output of the Northwest already at certain seasons of the year quite overtakes existing railway facilities, and if present expectations as to the rate of development in the western portion of the Dominion shall be realized, there may be more than one through new line to the Pacific Coast constructed within a comparatively short period.

What the Boer Delegates Say. Messrs. Jooste, Lane and Rood, the Boer delegates who have been making a tour of Canada, with the special purpose of studying the methods and results of Canadian agriculture, and of turning to useful account in their own country the information secured, have completed their survey, and, on the eve of their departure from the country, have written from Vancouver to Mr. W. W. Moore of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa a letter embodying some of the impressions received in the course of their visit. The delegates express sincere appreciation of the way in which they have been received in Canada, the opportunities which have been afforded them for observation and study and the cordial hospitality by which they have been met in all parts of the country. They intimate that they have been deeply impressed by the evidences of the great natural wealth of Canada, and feel assured that the country has a great future. In reference to what was the special purpose of their visit the delegates say:

"From the very first we have been impressed with the thorough organization of your dominion and provincial departments of agriculture, and have taken note of the practical manner in which they undertake the education of the farmer and the protection and the advancement

of his interests. Your splendid system of experimental farms has been especially interesting to us. Through the experiments made thereon in the growing of crops, the raising of stock, the culture of fruit, etc., the farmer can find out what is best suited for his locality, and the proper treatment to give the highest returns. We are quite convinced that the advanced position of the Canadian farmer today is largely due to the intelligent co-operation and assistance he has received from the governments, both federal and provincial.

"Now, with us in the past, we have had no such assistance, but have been left severely alone to find out the why and the wherefore as best we may. In looking back, we wonder how we have not done worse; our methods of agriculture, and manner of working generally, are in a very backward and primitive condition. However, we hope on our return to be able to show the government that it is most imperative for the powers that be to take in hand the practical education of the farmers of the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony—not merely by telling him he must do so and so, but by showing him actual results obtained by proper methods."

Effects of the Education Bill. In answer to the question—"What will it do?" Mr. I. N.

Ford makes the following statement as to the English Education Bill, the discussion of which in Parliament is now in its last stages:

"The bill, when enacted, will enable the State to take over the church, Wesleyan and Roman Catholic schools, and religious bodies will keep the buildings in repair and will be liable for possibly more than one-twelfth of the cost of maintenance. These bodies, in return, will have two-thirds of the board of management, and will be allowed direct religious instruction and the appointment of teachers, although the schools, with the exception of the repairs, will be supported from the rates. Like every compromise measure in which religious interests are involved, it will have mixed results, in accordance with the degree of tolerance and equity with which it is administered. While the religious bodies have been relieved from the heavy burden of financial support, the State has acquired a large educational plant without paying for it or being at the expense of keeping it in repair. As for educational results, there will probably be more catechism than efficiency."

Birth rate and Death rate in France. Statements are given out to show that for the year 1901 the

births in France have exceeded the deaths by 73,000. These figures are quite in contrast with those of the previous year in which the deaths exceeded the births by 26,000. This result, gratifying in itself to French national pride, has been brought about however less by an increased birth rate than by a diminished death rate. The returns are said to show for 1901, 857,000 births against 784,000 deaths, as compared with 827,000 births and 853,000 deaths in 1900. The births are higher and the deaths lower than in any year since 1897. The yearly average of births from 1891 to 1900 was 853,000, while that of deaths was 829,000. Thirty-three departments out of 87 still show an excess of deaths, but in 1900 there were 55 such departments, and in 1899, 43. Brittany and French Flanders show the largest excess of births over deaths. The Department of the Seine—that is to say, Paris and its suburbs—had 79,000 births and 73,000 deaths. The marriages in 1901 numbered 303,000 against 299,000 in the previous year, while the divorces were 7,741 against 7,157, this being the highest number recorded since the revival of the divorce law.

Death of Dr. Joseph Parker. Dr. Joseph Parker, minister of the City Temple, London, died on Friday last. Though Dr. Parker had been in falling health for more than a year past and his disease was known to be of a nature which might probably have a sudden fatal termination, yet such a termination was hardly anticipated as very near, and the announcement of his death has come as a painful shock. Dr. Parker's fame and influence were very wide. His sermons have not been so widely read as Maclaren's

and Talmage's, and probably they will not live in sermonic literature as Maclaren's will, but, since the death of Spurgeon, we suppose, the minister of the City Temple has been generally recognized as the most distinguished preacher of the English-speaking world. While like many other Nonconformist ministers in England, Dr. Parker took a keen interest in public affairs and contributed by voice and pen to their discussion, and while he had been quite industrious in the field of authorship, he was above all a preacher of the gospel. The pulpit was his throne, and as a preacher he was best known and his influence most widely felt. Among his published works are: 'Ecce Deus,' 'The People's Bible,' 'The Pulpit Bible,' 'Springdale Abbey,' 'Today's Bible,' 'To day's Christ,' 'Christian Profiles in a Pagan Mirror,' 'A Preacher's Life,' 'An Autobiography and an Album.' The great preacher was born at Hexham, on Tyne, April 9, 1830, and was accordingly in his 73rd year. The village of Hexham is a very old and historic village in Northumberland, England. Here Mr. Parker, the father, pursued his trade as a mason. Of his early boyhood Dr. Parker writes: 'The best Radicals and Dissenters in the little town met under my father's roof night after night and all the Nonconformist ministers foregathered round his hospitable hearth, the feast always being hot coffee and piles of buttered leavened bread; there, from secular and reverend lips I heard that the British world might at any moment be enveloped in flames.' He was educated at private schools and at the University of London. In 1853 he was ordained as pastor of the Congregational church at Banbury. His 'Helps to Truthseekers' (1857) contains the pith of his controversial discourses with secularists, held at open air meetings during this period. In 1858 Mr. Parker became minister of the Cavendish Street church, Manchester, where he founded mission stations and night schools, and did much admirable work. When Prof. Seeley's 'Ecce Homo' came out Mr. Parker replied with 'Ecce Deus.' After declining several valuable posts out of consideration for his congregation, Mr. Parker accepted the ministry of Poultney chapel in 1869. In 1874 the City Temple, which had been built by subscription, was opened, and has since been the centre of Dr. Parker's labors. A great feature of his ministry was the Thursday service at noon, after which a conference was frequently held, which on one occasion was addressed by Mr. Gladstone. He has been chairman of the Manchester Congregational Board, of the London Congregational Board, of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, and of the Lancashire Congregational Board.

The Cattle Disease and the Cattle Trade. On account of the prevalence in New England of the foot and mouth disease among cattle, the British Board of Agriculture has closed the ports of the United Kingdom against the importation of animals from the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. The order takes effect on Dec. 5, and cargoes arriving in the mean time will be the subject of special investigation. Acting it would seem both in the interest of the Canadian transatlantic cattle trade and as a matter of local protection, the Dominion Government has issued an order prohibiting the importation of cattle, sheep or swine from the six New England States. As the matter now stands the restriction on importation is understood to apply not only to shipments of cattle originating in New England but also to all shipments from the Western States and Western Canada passing through the State of Maine by the C. P. R. in bond. It is possible, however, that the British authorities may not insist upon the maintenance of this regulation; and in that case, it is understood that it will be withdrawn and western shipments will be permitted to come to St. John by the C. P. R. Otherwise western consignments of cattle will be able to reach the maritime ports of St. John and Halifax only by way of the I. C. R.