

DR. FRECHETTE.

Called by the University of Toronto into Her Honor Roll.

The ceremony of conferring degrees at Toronto University, always interesting, was rendered particularly so this year because the leading man of letters of French Canada was, along with the Governor-General, the recipient of the degree of LL.D. Dr. Frechette has had academic honors showered upon him, nor is this the first time that an English-speaking institution has called him into her circle. It is particularly appropriate, nevertheless, that highest institution of learning in Ontario should add to her roll of honor the name of him who stands easily first among those who write the tongue of Racine and Corneille in the Province of Quebec. His merits as a poet have already been judged and approved by an authority which is the last court of appeal in French letters, but we feel sure that Dr. Frechette will set a peculiar value on a recognition thus extended on behalf of his fellow-Canadians who speak the French tongue.

Besides the laurels conferred on him by the French Academy, Dr. Frechette has received degrees from Laval, McGill and Queen's Universities. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society, and was made a C. M. G. on the occasion of Her Majesty's Jubilee.

Our compatriots in Quebec are to be congratulated on the success with which the arts and graces, which found one of their earliest homes in the old land across the sea, have been cultivated and fostered amid the unfavorable conditions of cis-Atlantic life. That they have been cultivated, however, a poet like Frechette, a sculptor like Hebert, a singer like Albani, an historian like Garneau and orators like Chapleau and Laurier attest. The authorities of Toronto University may also be congratulated in choosing for honor so worthy a representative of the intellectual life of French Canada.

An Awful Failure.

One of our ministers this week visited Fred. Lee Rice, the only one of the trio of bank robbers now alive, and who rests under sentence of 21 years' imprisonment for robbery, and awaits trial on the charge of murder. Believing, as we do, that undue publicity given to such notorious characters and their wrong-doings works untold evil, we forbear spreading the story of their crimes. But as we listened to the account of the interview, and the description of the prisoner, and part of the story of his life, the thought that most strongly affected us was, what a sad and awful failure to the splendid possibilities of a human life is here revealed. Leaving aside the thought of all the crimes committed, crimes that probably broke nearly every command in the decalogue, is it not a most deplorable and awful crime that a life to which there came perhaps more than the average of advantages and possibilities, should be brought to a close so abruptly, facing the gallows with nothing good or worthy or ennobling to look back upon, no record but what had better be forgotten save as a warning? The Hebrew writers were true in their conceptions when they so frequently made use of the word for "sin" that means a failure or a missing of the mark. Can there be any sin greater than the perversion of high and holy powers to low and unworthy ends.—Christian Guardian.

Canadian Passenger Traffic.

Last year the Canadian railways carried 22,000,000 passengers, and there were only seven fatalities to passengers through accidents. Railway traveling is becoming safer. But among employees there were 123 deaths by accidents of one kind or another. Thirty-five of these fatalities resulted from falling from cars, 20 from jumping on or off trains in motion, 16 from coupling cars, 13 from collisions, and one from the putting of the head out of the window while the train was moving. Many of the accidents to employees were preventable. But the total is about half what it was 15 years ago, although we have twice the mileage, and the country traversed is more difficult. The adoption of new coupling devices and the use of the steam brake for freight trains have helped materially to reduce the danger, and to save life.

The Prince of Canada.

"The Prince of Canada." It cannot be denied that the title sounds well, and if we are right in going to Australia for Canadian news this is to be the distinction of the Duke of York when once he gets back to England, says The Canadian Gazette. From the same source we learn that it was first suggested to Mr. Chamberlain by Australian Ministers that the Duke should be called "Prince of Australia," "giving Wales a rest for a generation." But, it is added, "the Colonial Office consider that if a change were made Canada should have the first choice." So we should think. Australia in her disappointment clings to the hope that "Prince of Australia" may be conferred upon little Prince Eddie.

The Teaching Profession.

I appreciated the honor, dignity and power of the teaching profession. The superiority of the German school system is due to the honor in which it is regarded by the people of that country. In that country the worn-out teachers were pensioned by the State. I regretted that the profession at present is underpaid, but times are improving.—Hon. R. Harcourt at Watford.

INDIAN SEPULCHRE.

HUNDREDS OF SKELETONS UNCOVERED IN COUNTY OF LINCOLN.

Turned Up in Breaking Up New Land on Old Dean Farm—Mr. Boyle Thinks They Belong to a Tribe Extirpated by the Iroquois in the Seventeenth Century.

While Messrs. John Reece and Andrew Dean were breaking up a piece of new ground on the old Dean farm, about two and one-half miles south-east of the Village of Campden, Lincoln County, Ont., the former's ploughshare struck upon an Indian bonepit. At first Mr. Reece thought that the bones were those of some animal, but immediately in the next furrow a huge human skull stared at him, and upon a little further investigation he discovered a huge bonepit. The grave seems to be about fifteen feet square, and about three feet deep, covered with about six inches of ground. A conservative estimate is that the sepulchre contains from 800 to 1,000 skeletons. Hundreds of skulls have been carried away; some quite well preserved. Thus far nothing in the line of arrowheads, tomahawks, etc., has been found. The bones are those of people apparently much above the ordinary stature. There is a huge stump over the grave, the roots of which extend down through it. Hundreds of people have visited the scene during the past few days, and carried away many well-preserved skulls, and other bones. Mr. Dean has prohibited all further digging.

Mr. David Boyle, Curator of the Provincial Museum, said in an interview that he had received information regarding the discovery at Jordan. "I think there can be little doubt that the skulls and bones unearthed at Jordan are the remains of the tribe of Indians known as the Attiandorous, or Neutrals, a name which they were familiarly known by in that section of the country where the discovery was made. The Attiandorous, who were exterminated by the Iroquois in the seventeenth century, were akin to the latter tribe and also to the Hurons. Recently a few odd Ossuaries, or bone deposits, have been discovered along the shores of Lake Erie, but not to such a great extent as in the northern part of Ontario, particularly in the neighborhood of Georgian Bay, where many skulls and bones have been dug up. The fact that these discoveries were being made now," said Mr. Boyle, "is because the land in a number of the historical spots in Canada is now under the plough for the first time." A sample of one of the skulls, and several of the bones dug up at Jordan, have reached the museum, and it is altogether likely that Mr. Boyle will make arrangements to secure several more of the skulls and the curios for the museum at the Normal School. The skull in Mr. Boyle's possession presents some remarkable peculiarities. The skull is known as Wormian bones, or extra bones. These bones are very prevalent in the skulls of Indians, and are found to a greater extent in that race than among white people. However, Mr. Boyle has not as yet made a careful examination of the skull. He will visit Jordan in the near future, with a view of obtaining further information of the discovery.

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