

RIDER HAGGARD'S WORK.

Author Does Not Disclose Results of Mission to Canada.

ENTERTAINS MEMBERS OF CANADIAN CLUB WITH BRIGHT ADDRESS.

Toronto, April 14.—Although he delighted the members of the Canadian Club with an admirable little address while their guest at the Temple yesterday, Mr. Rider Haggard, English novelist and philanthropist, disclosed nothing of the objects and results of his mission to America as a commissioner of the Imperial government. Mr. Haggard, who arrived in the morning, was entertained at a special club luncheon at noon, and after a drive about the city left in the evening for Ottawa. To meet the distinguished writer and Commander Booth-Tucker, his travelling companion and fellow-investigator, the club had as special guests Rev. Dr. Gordon ("Ralph Connor"), Commissioner Coombs, Mr. J. W. Flavelle, Mr. C. C. James, Mr. John A. Cooper and Mr. W. T. White.

Like every English visitor, Mr. Haggard found much that was peculiar to him in his travels on this side, and to two of these he made dryly humorous references. Expressing regret at being delayed in his arrival here until yesterday morning, he remarked that he had found there were certain advantages in being late. He had been delayed by a freight wreck, but was gratified to learn that had the freight train not gone off the track it should have collided with the train upon which he was riding; also, if he had not been late he would have been at the bottom of the Colorado river, for the embankment upon which the train was due was washed away.

THE WESTERN REPORTER.

Then Mr. Haggard told of his arrival in a little American town about twelve o'clock on a certain night of his trip. "I had retired to my room," he said, "and if you will excuse me, was in my underclothing when the door opened to admit a large cigar. Behind the cigar was a reporter. I felt very bashful, but the reporter did not. He sat down on the bed and soon put me at my ease. He asked me what was the most remarkable thing I had seen in the United States. I felt like saying, 'The most remarkable thing I have seen is your colossal cheek.' But you know a man in his underclothing is at a great disadvantage. If one wants to practise repartee one must have one's waistcoat at least. So I spoke of the vastness of the distances, and such things, and then intimated that I should like very much to go to bed. Do you know what he did? He went away and wrote an article about my underclothing. I read it the next day and was grieved to find that the underclothing did not please him. He said it was very plain in character. I think I should say now, however, if I were asked what was the most remarkable thing in America, that it was the patience, the supreme faith, the heroism of the people who ride upon its trains."

BACK TO THE LAND.

Dealing with the work of his later

years, Mr. Haggard said that he had made some researches and studies in connection with the land and the life in large cities. In England they were in a bad way. At the present moment only one-seventh of the population dwelt in the rural districts. Year by year more were being drawn into the net of the large cities, there to perish, to go under in the cruel race of life. Commander Booth-Tucker could tell of the state of the poor in the large cities, how his great society was called upon to feed thousands of London children before they went to the school that the State provided for them. When they looked at these children, what could they think of the criminality, the folly, the madness of a generation which consented to see the best of its population crowded into slums to swelter, melt and die? What was happening in England in almost every part of the civilized world. The allurements of the cities were drawing the people into them, there to meet with the most bitter disappointments.

The real thing, he thought, back of every other thing, was to ascertain, to discover, if there was any method by which something of that exodus could be prevented or remedied, if it were feasible to remove even some of those still fit, back to the land, to healthy associations of the land. It was to that purpose that he had devoted his energies. The struggle had been hard, for he had been known only as a writer of fiction, and it was necessary to make a reputation in a new line, and nothing was more difficult to overcome than that of being a writer of fiction. He was not without hope, however, that a solution of the great question would soon be found.

MADE CANADA KNOWN.

Although he never had an opportunity of visiting Canada before now he knew how vast were its opportunities and how splendid were its resources. He trusted they would not think him rude if he asked, "Why don't you make your resources and advantages more known to the world? Why do you allow so much immigration to go to the United States and so little to come here?" True, there were placards at the railway stations advertising Canada, but why did not this country endeavor to stop the stream of those of Anglo-Saxon blood pouring to the United States and the Argentine and divert it to these shores? He asked indulgence and generous treatment for the newly-arrived immigrant, even if it entailed a little present loss.

Commander Booth-Tucker spoke in appreciative terms of the work undertaken by Mr. Haggard. The solution required a mixture of brain, brawn, brass and brotherhood. He hoped the day would soon come when Canada would be setting the pace, and armies of men, women and children would be settled on its land, happy home-owners, cultivating the land by their own labor.

SETTLERS POUR INTO THE WEST.

Mr. William Whyte Says They Are an Ideal Class.

ARE FARMERS WITH PLENTY OF MONEY.

Montreal, April 12.—Mr. William Whyte, second vice-president of the C. P. R., arrived in town last night from Winnipeg. He comes east on important business connected with the road, and he leaves for Ottawa tomorrow.

Naturally, Mr. Whyte speaks very optimistically of the west, of the progress which has been made, and which is being made, there, and of the prospects for the coming season. The company is contemplating making many vast improvements in the western portion of the system, chief among which is the double-tracking of the line between Fort William and Winnipeg, a distance of 470 miles. Mr. Whyte announced that the contract for this work had not yet been let, but that it would be given out in the near future. A firm of contractors said to be one of the largest in the world, is now going over the ground, examining the ground in detail. Mr. Whyte added that this double-tracking would take an enormous amount of money, the sum running well up into the millions, but that the company was, nevertheless, determined to bring it to a successful conclusion as soon as possible. This double-tracking had been found to be absolutely necessary, owing to

the great amount of traffic which now passes over that portion of the line, and which, in the natural course of things, will assume enormous proportions.

Mr. Whyte speaks enthusiastically of the number and character of the immigrants which are now pouring into the Northwest. "They are a fine lot of people," said he, "and the west is glad to welcome them. We have a great many coming from Great Britain, and a fine intelligent type they are; there are also a large number coming from the older provinces, while already a well defined movement of American farmers has been noticed. As far as the American immigration is concerned, we expect this year many more farmers from across the line than even came last year. That is saying a great deal. These American farmers, by the way, make ideal settlers. They have money, are well equipped with good, practical knowledge, and they know how to treat their land almost scientifically, thus getting the greatest possible good out of it."

The acreage of the Northwest, Mr. Whyte says, will be increased by about a million acres, and there will be at least four and a half million acres under cultivation this year.

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THE DIVORCED HOST.

One Divorce in Every 7.7 Marriages
the Record of 1903 for New Hampshire.

Concord, N. H., April 14.—The Rev. W. Stanley Emery, rector of Trinity (Episcopal) church in Tilton by request of the New Hampshire Conference of Charities and Corrections, has prepared a paper which will be published in full in the forthcoming report of that organization. This paper especially discusses the divorce evil in the state and gives the results of a careful study and investigation of sociological conditions in New Hampshire, which, in view of the recent startling disclosures by The Herald relative to a certain section of the state, are particularly pertinent at this time.

Mr. Emery says in part that no more serious question confronts the people of New Hampshire today than the divorce question. "It represents an ugly, a delicate, a most difficult subject. The more one knows of it, the less inclined is one to talk or write about it. But the time has come when, no matter what the consequences, the question must be faced, studied openly and fearlessly, and from every side; from the side of the state, the home, the church, the school and the parent and the child. How ugly and widespread is the disease with which we are called to deal is seen by a moment's comparison.

"Next to Japan, divorces are more numerous in the United States in proportion to the marriages than in any other country. New Hampshire's contribution to this proportion may be calculated when it is known that in 1903 there was 518 divorces in the state, one to every 7.7 marriages. In England, from 1890 to 1905 there was but 16 divorces for every 10,000 marriages. In Canada for the last 12 years, there has been an average of but 31.2 divorces a year. It is safe to say that the law in New Hampshire has made in the last 20 years not less than 17,640 divorced people within

its borders. Allow but one child to a single divorced couple. This gives an element in the state of 26,460 to whom the mention of divorce is a most delicate subject.

"The author of an article in The Princeton Review did not give his paper an inappropriate name when he called it 'Polygamy in New England,' and described the condition of its social life in the light of its marriages and divorce laws as 'Progressive Polygamy.' A New England medical journal furnishes information about New Hampshire's social conditions which the state must be deeply concerned to prove untrue, if possible. It says: 'It is now estimated that there were to be no accessions from without, the descendants of the original settlers of New England would entirely disappear within an easily calculated period, those of New Hampshire disappearing first.'

"Marriage laws, we are told, tend to raise the legal age of consent in both sexes. In most states which have laws on this subject, 21 is the age for males; in some it is 18; in Tennessee it is 16. In many states 21 is the age for females also, in many others it is 18; in six it is 16; in two it is 15. Every marriage license now issued in this state has printed upon it these words: 'The age of consent (for marriage) shall be in the female 13 years, in the male 14.' Let fathers and mothers within and without our borders take notice of this, that of the states when the facts are mentioned all require parental consent except five. But among that five is New Hampshire. And therefore among any of 14 causes such a marriage of a girl of 13 and a boy of 14, against the will of their parents may be broken up and a new one legally entered into. Certainly, if anywhere in the United States, the principle of individualism has been given legal free play in New Hampshire, in the matter of marriage, divorce and remarriage.

riage.

"And the state is reaping terribly as it has sown. It is a common but erroneous opinion that our lax divorce laws, and especially our lax divorce laws, have come into being after the greatly increased demand for divorce began. On the contrary, the legal causes for divorces in New Hampshire have not been changed since previous to 1849. The social restlessness of our times has simply availed itself of legislative indulgence already granted.

"We submit that the legislature of New Hampshire cannot take in hand too soon, and deal too strongly with the divorce evil. Surely our legislature is competent to call to its aid the wisest skill which the state affords for an authoritative and exhaustive examination of the facts bearing upon the social conditions of New Hampshire, of which divorce is but a sign. We have only touched the fringe of this forbidden subject, which men and women have good reason to shrink from discussing."

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