

IMMIGRATION AFTER THE WAR

Canada's greatest need is agricultural producers. Out of her population of less than 10,000,000 people, only slightly more than 3,000,000 are in the rural districts. Nature's most bounteous bequests to Canada were in our rich farm lands. She should not only raise all her own food products, but she should be an exporter of those products upon a large scale. The balance of trade in favor of Canada is now piling up at the rate of half a billion a year, as compared with a reverse balance of some \$275,000,000 in 1913. To maintain this balance of trade on the right side of the ledger is the great problem that Canada must face during the reconstruction period after the war.

During the ten year period previous to the war, some 2,500,000 immigrants came into Canada. Of this total, Great Britain provided, roughly, 1,000,000; the United States 900,000; the balance coming from other countries. Only a small proportion of the immigrants from Great Britain settled on the farms, while most of the settlers coming here from the States went on to farms in Western Canada.

Our problem will be, how can we obtain settlers for our vacant farm lands and at the same time care for the unskilled labor which is quite sure to flock to our cities after the war.

The United States at the close of the Civil War practically threw open her doors and invited immigration from most parts of the world. A comparison of conditions prevailing in the United States then, and Canada now, however, shows a number of important differences. The urban population in the United States was only about 18% of the total at the start of the civil war, whereas (as start of the Civil War. A large proportion of the enlistments in the Union Army came from among the farmers as against only 12% of our enlistment from among farmers and ranchers. When the Civil War ended there was a wave of industrial development that called for a large quantity of labor. The returning soldiers for the most part turned back to their farms or moved with their families to the newly opened homestead lands in the central west. This made it possible to absorb the unskilled labor from Europe as fast as the States. In the meantime, the agricultural production basis was brought back to a normal basis and then started to increase rapidly. The opening of the new lands in the west created a demand for extensive railways and about 15,000 miles were constructed in the central and Mississippi Valley states during the half decade following the Civil War. This in turn added to the demand for labor and helped to absorb the flood of immigration.

A survey of labor conditions in Canada indicates that there will be employment for about 300,000 more men after the war than are needed at present. This would take care of the returning soldiers but for the fact that when the manufacturing of munitions ceases, probably 200,000 persons now employed will be seeking other jobs. Perhaps of this number 25% will not require positions; still this leaves fully 100,000 to be cared for, even after the returning soldiers are placed.

This situation indicates that we should restrict our immigration to the cities as much as possible and encourage our agricultural development to the greatest possible extent. We cannot hope for the railway construction boom that absorbed the surplus labor in the United States. Canada has greater railway mileage per capita than any other country in the world, some 35,000 miles for a population of 8,000,000, while the U.S. has only 34,000 in 1917 with a population of 35,000,000. Our

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Canada has been wont to consider all her farm problems as local, but the Great Lakes; that the Western Provinces are so completely settled. We have now to face quite the same problem that the United States faced a decade after the Civil War, namely the re-population of the farms in the older sections, left vacant during the great rush to the prairie lands in the West. Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and other States were for years dotted with vacant farms. The same situation is to be found in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces today. Our Provincial and Federal Governments have only recently come to realize the fact and are now putting forth a concerted effort to bring a betterment of these conditions.

And again we have large tracts of new lands in both Ontario and Quebec—lands tributary to rail service even—which are yawning for occupation and production.

Canada's immigration problem, concerned as it is with the economic foundation of our future prosperity, should receive the most careful attention of our government and the deepest thought of our statesmen. Canada's greatest economic need is more farmers. This need translated into other terms means a necessity for a profligate immigration of the sort of settlers who have the inclination to go on our lands and the knowledge of how to make these lands produce the utmost, so that Canada may be able at least, to feed herself, and finally develop a surplus to sell abroad. This selected immigration can only be secured through an intensive campaign under the direction of the very best experts obtainable.

There is every reason to suppose that the tide of immigration that flowed to Western Canada from the United States before the war can be started again through the proper direction. But most of this immigration was from experienced farmers, whose training had been under practically the same conditions of climate, soil, government, language, money and society, as they found in Canada. Failure among this class of immigrants has been the exception. In large numbers of cases these immigrants came from European countries originally, having merely passed a period of acclimation to American continent conditions during a stay in the United States.

Canada will continue to attract numbers of agricultural immigrants from the northern countries of Europe in spite of rigid laws, in many of these countries, against emigration. Sweden, Norway, Denmark have sent many valuable farm producers to our borders and we may expect many more. Even Russia, in spite of the broadening democratic development there, should be a source from which a large number of good agricultural settlers can be obtained.

Special homestead provisions for British soldiers have been proposed as a possible means of colonization in the Dominion. Canada's experience with such a plan after the South African war was anything but satisfactory. The objective of providing liberally for the men who have fought for the Empire by granting arms through the issue of land scrip was reached in only a small percentage of cases. Instead, the plan made it possible for land speculators to obtain the choicest of the Government lands through the purchase of the soldier scrip at a heavy discount. And it has been the experience of the west that speculators have held back the development of large areas of excellent land. In our western provinces, drastic measures have been taken for forcing this uncoupled land, held by speculators, into the hands of producers by the imposition of a sur-tax on unimproved land.

As previously stated, the crying need of Canada is greater agricultural production. Colonization by our returning soldiers that will help us solve both the labor and immigration problems, but we know from experience that the men from the cities, the stores and the trades, will seldom make good on the farm, unless they are given some sort of special training in the principles of agriculture, or have had some experience in this line of work. One way to successfully place soldiers on the land would be to organize them into military colonies after they have been given one year's instruction at a district agricultural school.

It would be an excellent investment for the Government to even support the families of such soldiers through the same separation allowance that was given soldiers' families during overseas duties, while they were attending the agricultural camp.

Agriculture is a business requiring special knowledge, just as store-keeping, or any of the trades.

The Civil War veterans were allowed a rebate in time equal to the period of their services in the army in obtaining title to their homesteads. A similar provision has been taken in Canada. Due care should be taken in the other regulations surrounding the homesteading of soldiers as well as civilians, so as to be sure that very entry comes from a man who has a sincere desire to engage in the business of farming. It must be remembered in this connection that almost 90% of our Canadian soldiers, and even a higher percentage of those of Great Britain, have had no experience in farming. As against this, the predominance of farmers among the Civil War veterans, and the population of the country, was almost 3 to 1. Yet the history of the eastern Western States during those reconstruction days is filled with stories of hardships endured and dis-

asters were not immune from conditions attending farm life.

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FIGHTING IS EXTREMELY HOT

STRUGGLE FOR FONTAINE

British Under Disadvantage But Give A Glorious Exhibition of Bulldog Courage

British Headquarters in Franco, Nov. 27.—(By Associated Press.) Desperate and sanguinary fighting has been raging in and about Fontaine Notre Dame since dawn today, when the British again attacked the strongly held village. Shortly after nine o'clock it appeared that the assaulting infantry had stormed its way through the village in the face of tremendous machine gun fire both from the houses of the hamlet and from La Folle wood, to the south-east. Five hundred German prisoners were taken in the early hours of the fighting. Late this afternoon the Germans hurried up two new divisions and threw them in for a counter-attack along the Fontaine-Bourbon wood line.

The fighting which followed in Fontaine was never more bitter, if possible, than that which occurred in the first rush through the ruined hamlet. At latest reports superior numbers of enemy infantry had pushed the British back through the village against the western and northwestern outskirts, but the battle still continued with unabated fury.

In the meantime the British line running around Bourbon wood to the northwest was sustaining a heavy assault. The enemy appeared to be determined to regain this important position if it were humanly possible. The whole front from Fontaine to Bourbon Village was the scene of fierce fighting which at many places was at close quarters. The British line about Bourbon wood is still intact.

The attack on Fontaine Notre Dame was begun with the assistance of a heavy artillery barrage, and throughout the morning the British gunners maintained an intense fire against the German positions there. The crushing infantry drove an enfilade wedge into the northwestern part of the village in a short time, but they were held up here by a terrific rifle and machine gun fire, to which they were subjected from every point of vantage.

Conditions were favorable to the Germans, for they were fighting on the defensive in well prepared positions, which could only be taken by storm. Every machine gun was equivalent to several hundred rifles. Despite the disadvantage, the British continued the onslaught. It was a glorious exhibition of bulldog courage. They surged on and in less than three hours had pushed the hard-hitting Germans back to the eastern side of the village, leaving enemy dead strewn the streets.

As the British fought forward and surrounded the various buildings containing enemy machine guns, mortar bombs were compelled to surrender or lose their lives. By the time



war broke out he took command of his district as district officer commanding.

General Shannon is a former newspaperman having been publisher of the Kingston News for a number of years.—London Advertiser.

CHILDREN BURN TO DEATH

Parents Were Absent Attending A Chataqua Lecture

Calgary, Dec. 1.—While their parents were absent in attending a Chataqua lecture, five children of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Oaks, were burned to death when their town house, four miles south of the town, was destroyed.

A sixth child was so severely burned that his recovery is doubtful. The dead children were aged from fifteen months to thirteen years.

MILITARY NEWS

Militia orders just issued contain the following: "When in the judgment of the military authorities such procedure is necessary, compulsory vaccination against typhoid fever, dysentery, cholera and such infectious diseases, may be resorted to in the case of members of the Canadian expeditionary force."

"With a view to the protection of the community against the transmission of venereal diseases, all members of the Canadian expeditionary force shall submit to blood examinations when so required by superior authority."

"Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions and in addition thereto, it should be an offence, cognizable by a court martial, for a soldier belonging to the Canadian expeditionary force to refuse to be inoculated or vaccinated or to submit to the blood examinations above mentioned and for such offence he shall, on conviction, be subject to the penalty provided for an offence under section 18 of the Army Act."

Nursing Sister Eva Bell, who has done service at Lemnos and in France and England, has taken over the position of matron of Queen's Military Hospital, Kingston. She is a graduate of the Kingston General Hospital.

Lt.-Col. Edmund Clarke, assistant director of transport and supplies, has been appointed director of transport and supplies to succeed Brig.-Gen. Biggar, recently appointed acting quartermaster general, due to the resignation of Major-General Macdonald.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE SWEEPS KINMOUNT

Kinmount, Nov. 23th.—The village of Kinmount was this morning visited by a most destructive fire which practically wiped out its business section, amounting a loss of between \$30,000 and \$40,000.

The fire broke out in the rear of Doherty Bros. general store; about 5.30, and when first noticed was burning fiercely. The villagers were quickly aroused but all attempts to save the store were fruitless as flames licked up everything like matchwood.

It was soon seen that the destruction of the entire business section was threatened and the fact that the village had no fire fighting appliances, the situation was indeed serious. The villagers worked like Trojans to stay the devouring element but their efforts were fruitless.

Doherty's store was soon a mass of ruins, while other business houses extending to the old Doherty Hotel were burning fiercely.

The scene presented this morning on the street of the village was one of ruin and desolation. Business places, containing heavy stocks, were transformed in a few hours into a heap of smoking debris.

The loss is a serious one to the merchants and village. The firms who suffered by fire carried insurance, but it will not nearly cover the loss sustained. The fire came at an unfortunate time as the merchants had stocked heavily for the winter trade.

The fire is thought to have been caused by an overheated stove.—Port Hope Guide.

Mrs. Henry Kingston, is visiting her sister, Mrs. John Munro, of city.

Mr. Murney Tripp, of city, is relieving in the local G. N. W. telegraph office Deseronto.

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R. J. GRAHAM (The People's Candidate)

Mr. Graham's Committee Rooms, Robertson Block, Front Street are open every evening except Sunday, for the convenience of all interested in seeing Mr. Graham elected to represent this constituency.

To The Electors Of West Hastings:

Having been solicited to become a candidate for West Hastings in the present election by many prominent electors of the constituency, both Conservatives and Liberals, and having been advised that the executive of the Conservative party refused to join the executive of the Liberal party in endeavoring to avoid an election, by the selection of a candidate that would be acceptable to both parties, I have decided to offer myself for election without any political party recognition, as an independent supporter of the present government, to win the war, and solicit the support of all those who think it is time to drop party politics and unite our efforts to overthrow the Germans. I believe in this most serious time, that we should adopt what the Romans did, "When none were for the party and all were for the State."

R. J. Graham.

Political Meetings

In the Interest of R. J. Graham, the People's Candidate, will be held on the following dates at 8 p.m.

- Turner's School House, Thursday, November 29
 - Springbrook, Friday, November 30th.
 - Frankford, Saturday, December 1st
 - Coe Hill, Tuesday, December 4th
 - Bancroft, Wednesday, December 5
 - Maynooth, Thursday, December 6th
 - Trenton Opera House, Workingmen's Meeting, Fri., Dec. 7th.
 - Molra Town Hall, Monday, December 10th
 - Crookston Guild Hall, Tuesday, December 11.
- Frankford Band at all Sidney Meetings. Good music will be supplied at other meetings. Ladies specially welcome. Mr. Porter or his representative will be welcome.
- GOD SAVE THE KING

R. J. GRAHAM

To the Electors of East Hastings:

LADIES & GENTLEMEN:

Your vote and influence are respectfully requested for T. H. Thompson, Unionist Candidate, officially endorsed by the Premier and the Union Government.

I am in hearty accord with the platform of the Government, and for every measure of the Government to win the war.

I am for the abolition of the patronage system, food control and the regulation of the prices of the necessities of life, limitation and regulation of profits the best treatment for returned soldiers, and for the dependents of those who are fighting our battles overseas.

I believe that wealth should bear a greater part of the financial burden than it has done in the past, and that Labour should have a just share in the Government of the country. I believe in the franchise for women equally with men, and am for any measure that will aid in a better social and economic re-construction of Canada.

T. H. THOMPSON

Why not try "The Ontario" Want Column in the house you want to rent, or article for sale?