

course by giving greater attention to practical subjects, such as order-writing, languages, reconnoissance, and devoting less time to others of a merely theoretical character.

The first number of the *Western World*, an illustrated monthly magazine, published and edited by Mr. Acton Burrows, author of "Annals of the Town of Guelph," etc., and devoted to the elucidation of the resources and development of North-Western Ontario, Manitoba, the Prairie Territories and British Columbia, contains a good deal of valuable information on the climate, resources, population, history and progress of Western Canada. Mr. C. N. Bell, F.R.G.S., contributes a historical sketch of Winnipeg, from the year 1736 when La Verendrye, senior, penetrated into the region beyond Lake Superior and reached the confluence of the Red and Assiniboine rivers, to the present day of assured prosperity. Mr. Bell shows that generations ago the site of Winnipeg was recognized as an important central point for the distribution of merchandize. Mr. S. A. Rowbotham illustrates the progress of the city by the growth of its population from 300 in 1870 to 6,000 in 1880, and to 27,000 in 1890. Major H. N. Ruttan, C.E., treats of "Assiniboine Water Power." Mr. D. McIntyre, Inspector of Protestant Schools for the city, deals with "Education in Winnipeg." Mr. Bell has something to say of its trade, on which his position as secretary to the Board of Trade enables him to speak with authority. Farming in Manitoba, the climate of the North-West, the character of the soil, the sort of settlers required, and the methods by which they may be secured—these and other questions are discussed with knowledge and judgment. Throughout the duty of a vigorous immigration policy is urged upon our Government and legislators as the vital question for trans-Superior Canada—the earnest speech of the Hon. Mr. Loughheed in the Dominion Senate strongly pleading the same cause.

THE IMMIGRATION REPORT.

The movement of population into, out of, and to and fro within the limits of the Dominion, has of late been the subject of discussion in Parliament and in the press. We have already given some of the figures representing the official returns as to immigration during the past year. The total, 176,462, compared with the annual influx of the last decade, ranks as third, the only years that have surpassed it being 1882 (193,150) and 1883 (206,898). Of immigrants who declared their intention to settle in Canada, the number given for 1889 (91,600) has been thrice surpassed in ten years—133,624 being set down to 1883; 112,458 to 1882, and 103,824 to 1884. Of last year's whole number of settlers, 38,617 are reported as having arrived with settler's goods at the Custom Houses, having with them a total value of \$1,516,798.04—a considerable increase both in immigrants and property over the previous year's showing. To this should be added the value of cash and effects at the various ports of entry, \$1,648,158, making a total of \$3,164,956. This figure has also been exceeded in previous years—in 1883 and 1884 especially. The immigrants, who came to settle, were almost all of a good class. They belonged to various nationalities—British, German, French, Belgian, Scandinavian, Hungarian, Roumanian, Russian, and even Turkish. Turning to the agents' reports, we find a good deal of information of interest. Mr. McGovern,

of Port Arthur, was instructed to ascertain the intended destinations of immigrants arriving at that point—a task which he found far from easy. Manitoba received the bulk of them. He regretted a falling off in the number of Scandinavian settlers, and also some decrease in Icelanders, both of whom make excellent pioneers, but there was some increase in the arrivals of Germans, French, Russians, etc. It was to be regretted that the British colonists were about 1,400 less than during the previous year, and, as a class, not so desirable. Of the whole number reaching Port Arthur, 16,342 were seeking Manitoba; 5,091 the North-West Territories; 5,703 British Columbia. Mr. Bennett, of Winnipeg, has also to regret the falling off of settlers from Great Britain. He suggests the "flattering inducements" offered by the Argentine Republic—an apology which, to speak mildly, causes us a little surprise. It is not the Argentine, but a nearer Republic, that we have most to fear. One agent is pleased to think that the jaunt on the C.P.R., which some of the Pacific States bound travellers find so convenient, will prove a memorable lesson to them, and that they will probably one day return to prairie land. Another regrets that the strangers should see so much of the Rocky Mountains and ulterior ranges on their way to the coast, as more likely to be a source of despair than of admiration. Another still deprecates the exaggerations by which some of the newcomers have been impelled to cross the continent, and suggests that in cases of disappointment such beguiled travellers should be brought back to the prairie country. There is not a report that can be accepted as entirely satisfactory. In every case there is the consciousness, expressed or implied, that the results attained are trivial compared with the advantages offered. The picture that Mr. McGovern gives of himself and his assistants pestering the many-tongued foreigners as to their destination, their means, their trades, is rather absurd, when the main business—that of assuring immigration to Canada—has clearly been neglected. Yet, according to Mr. Payne, who went to Castle Garden to investigate the methods of our neighbours, the same random policy is in vogue there as here. There are, he says, no organized means for the distribution of immigrants—it is all a matter of railway agencies and ticket-buying. What concerns us is that so large a proportion of our fellow-countrymen, in search of new homes, pass by our doors. More than half a million of immigrants—the surplus being, indeed, equal to more than half the entire figure of our new settlers last year—entered the United States in 1888. Of these we are told that the skilled labourers—59,985—were more than double the farmers—the latter being slightly more than five per cent of the whole, and that our own showing in this respect is much more favourable—the balance being on the side of the farmers. It is also noteworthy that two old States—New York and Pennsylvania—have during the past ten years received about half the whole alien influx—only fourteen per cent going to the new lands of the west. That undoubtedly involves a serious problem for coming generations—a problem of which publicists are already groping for a solution. The authorities have for some years been rejecting unsuitable immigrants, but the average of those deemed unfit is trifling, compared with the totality. Mr. Payne speaks highly of some of the Castle Garden facilities for dealing with the newcomers

and their belongings—commending especially the labour bureau, the boarding houses and other arrangements. It is significant, as Mr. Payne points out, that in Europe the emigration movement is increasing. It is no longer limited to the Atlantic countries, but extends all across the continent, even to Turkey.

That Canada will ultimately be filled up no one can doubt. But we must not wait till the United States flows over. We ought to have our share of the bone and muscle—intellectual and moral as well as physical, that the Mother Country is parting with and also of whatever capital (with the educational and social advantages that it may be generally deemed to imply) accompanies the exodus. We really ought not to be beggars for such favours. The advantages that new Canada (with much of old Canada) offers to persons of thrift and energy have been set forth again and again by experts from the United Kingdom. Since 1880—since the visit of the British Association, especially—scores of writers have volunteered to extol our great domain as suited for every class of emigrant. But nothing worth having is won without effort, and in this age of activity in thought and deed, fresh interests are incessantly claiming attention. Young men of enterprise will strike out for themselves and make their own choice of destination, whatever our agents may say. Still it is not enough to say and be silent. The Argentine Republic, which is mildly cited as a formidable rival to Canada for British settlers, has spent millions on this one great aim of filling its waste places with industrious, hopeful, successful citizens. Yet Canada, with half a continent to dispose of, adopts a penurious, peddling policy. It reminds one of Hood's Comic Annual picture of the pennywise pounds foolish fellow who is hugging his little pile of coppers while the bank notes are fleeing on the breeze to unknown goals. Our Government is hugging its pence, but the emigrants are taking wing to near or distant bournes, from which they will never, we may be sure, come to us, save, perhaps, as fastidious tourists years hence. We must confess that the Report of the department is keenly disappointing to those who have any pride in their country. We make no comment on the charges and insinuations of incorrectness. It is easy for outsiders to say that this or that is inaccurate, but surely the officials who have given all their time to the subject are in a better position to know the truth. It is poor spite to blame them. The working heads of the department, and most of their subordinates, are thoroughly in earnest, and have long since indicated the defects of the system. If Canada is ever to develop in population, enterprise and wealth in harmony with its vast and varied resources, it must be through a different immigration policy from that which we have regretfully to condemn. What is the use of spending money on railways and public works of all kinds if no effective means are taken to create a corresponding growth of population? Proportionally, far more was spent and to better purpose sixty or seventy years ago when new Canada had no railways and hardly any roads than now when the immigrant to any part of the Dominion is placed in communication with all the markets of the world. Our people and their representatives have, however, begun to take this all important question to heart and our immigration policy must be brought into fruitful harmony with the country's requirements.