

Canada's Great Need—More Population

"When a public official asked me that night for my outstanding impression of the journey, I said without hesitation: How very few people live in the country!

"On previous runs from Seattle we had remarked the wide, vacant spaces and the room for settlement, but this time, by comparison, we seemed to have passed through a region of intensive industry, large towns and dense population. We thought of the long days during the past month when, as our car had moved steadily westward, silence had fallen upon us, even our own voices failing in a sort of regretful impatience that our great Dominion of Canada, after fifty-five years, was still so unpeopled and untamed. Wearily our gaze would sweep the whole wide horizon in vain for a single monument to the hand of man. Then, on a sudden, conversation would awake, backs straighten, eyes brighten. Perhaps it was only a piece of farm machinery, grazing horses or a curl of smoke, but the very promise of a home seemed to rekindle the fire of hope, of faith in our great land.

"Thus it is that the pioneer, forsaking the ties and comforts—perhaps, too, the deceits and cares—of luxury's lap, becomes not only a torch-bearer to himself, but a light of hope in the path of others."

A Suggestion Re Other Editions

Other editions of this book are almost sure to be called for. With that in view, it is pertinent to point out that a little careful editing would result in the elimination or correction of not a few sentences, faulty or worse in construction, that mar this otherwise well-written and exceedingly readable narrative.

As usual in most first editions, there are a number of typographical slips; but none of these are deadly.

With so much to commend in the book as a whole, however, perhaps a friendly critic need not hesitate to quote a few samples of the—from an English or grammatical point of view—objectionable sentences, or passages, attention to which should be given before another edition is passed through the press:

"Stepping on the last remaining plank, it crumbled like punk into the creek."

"Dashing on down the trail, my shouts were at last answered."

"While talking with an editor on the chief daily newspaper, a storm swept the city."

"Passing on towards the mines of Blairmore and Coleman, through the new town of Frank, housewives of various dialects of central and southern Europe were busily hanging their washings . . ."

"Coming down, my nose evidently hooked over one of the cloth straps, and left me nursing my face and squealing with pain."

Other sentences more involved and otherwise faulty might be noted from the book. But these quoted may serve to demonstrate the need for careful revision. At the same time Mr. Gomery need not be over-exercised about having passed a number of such mistakes in his so interesting record; for it is not uncommon to find more experienced and even professional writers making such slips. (The use of "Bobbie" for "Robbie" Burns at the end of a quotation would also be better changed—or left out?)

Lest the references to English construction seem hypercritical, let us emphasize in concluding this extended notice that the spirit of the book is the prime thing; and, as we have indicated, that leaves nothing to be desired. The value and interest of the record are enhanced by the inclusion at the end of a "complete log", and the insertion of a sketch map. The book is published by the Ryerson Press, Toronto.

(D. A. C.)

Vacation School for Boys

(By E. J. J. Glenesk)

Great interest is being shown in the Y. M. C. A. Vacation School for boys. The School started off two years ago with an enrollment of 43 boys. Last year it increased to 115, and the outlook is even greater this year. The School is intended for, 1st: The boy who has been "conditionally" promoted. He will secure the needed help and guidance which will enable him to enter the new class fully qualified to carry the work. 2nd: The boy who is weak in some subjects and needs special help to make him a leader in his class next year. 3rd: The boy who, because of sickness or moving, has been caused to lose time in school. 4th: The boy who has failed to pass his grade. 5th: The exceptional boy who because of age or unusual ability may by serious and consistent study, advance himself in his grade. 6th: First and second year high school students who require special assistance in certain subjects.

The teachers are all men selected from the city public school principals and vice-principals, and high school staff who are thoroughly familiar with the courses and requirements. The classes are small, no more than 20 students being allowed in Public School work and twelve being the maximum in High School. This enables the teacher to get to know the needs and special difficulties of the individual boy. The results have been wonderful, and have meant the saving of many boys to School life, as frequently when a boy fails he refuses to go back with the smaller boys with whom he would have to associate.

The Principals of the city schools are co-operating very heartily with the Y. M. C. A. Educational Committee in this effort for the boys of the city. In expressing the thoughts of the school some of them replied as follows: We appreciate your summer school, and shall support it." Another Principal replied, "George has been slowly improving since he took the Summer School work. He should be able to pass Entrance this year." Still another: "I think your school is doing splendid work and has more than justified its inauguration."

A number of the parents have expressed strongly their appreciation of the work. The following are some quotations: "I am just writing you a line to thank you very much for the great kindness you have shown to my boy. I would have liked to thank you in person on the closing day, but my heart was too full to think of the very great kindness you have shown to us. I thank you so very much. It has been a very great help to him, and he fully appreciates it." Another says: "I must take this opportunity to express my entire satisfaction of results during the course, and especially of the personal interest and encouragement bestowed by the teacher." A father says: "My boy was a member of the Vacation School. I have pleasure in stating that I am more than pleased with the progress he made, and the benefits he obtained from the course. I have noted a decided improvement in him, not only in the instruction acquired, but in a better understanding of and liking for school work."

The School commences on Monday, July 16th, continuing for six weeks, five days per week, from 8.30 to 12.30 p. m., one hour of which is given up to recreation, including games and gymnasium and swimming.

All who are interested in this school should get in touch with Mr. E. J. J. Glenesk, Educational Secretary of the Y. M. C. A., as soon as possible.