

by public improvements should in good proportion go towards the payment of such improvements? Why should it be allowed to be retained in the hands of a private political friend or a few speculators? If the taxes on land were put on in the same manner that taxes for draining farm lands are levied, that is, according to the ratio in which the value of the land is improved or increased, and a long series of years allowed for payments, the cost of this railroad would not have to be met by direct taxation or revenue belonging to the older provinces. The older provinces need only be held as security. As it is, we in these provinces have to pay for the enrichment of the speculators in Manitoba, especially those who hold large tracts of reserves and city and town property, or the property near railroad stations and localities where public buildings are erected. It is not right that a few politicians and speculators should be made rich at the expense of the public or at the loss and privation of the real, active, energetic and enterprising settler that goes into this country to develop its agricultural resources.

There are vast tracts of very fertile land in Manitoba, and the wheat production will be immense. This and our North-West Territory can supply England with her bread. Farmers with moderate means can and will develop this country. There are obstacles to be overcome, and we deem it far better to show the obstructions that are in the way than to conceal them. Then our readers will not be deceived—they will know what they have to contend against and what to expect, and will not be rushing to the States in disgust at the false representations they have read in this journal. We shall in due time speak of the advantages and bright prospects, but as all the papers have said so much—we think too much for the good of many, we withhold that for future issues.

We will now inform you

WHO SHOULD GO.

If you have relatives or friends there that you can depend on as advising you for your good, and if they have been there sufficient time to arrive at correct conclusions, and they tell you to come to them, you should go. If you are dissatisfied with your present position and desire a change, or wish to obtain more land, or to embark in any new business that you may be fitted for, you should go and examine that country. If you wish to raise a large quantity of wheat, and to follow wheat-farming as a specialty, you should see that country in preference to any other. If you are cool-headed and speculative, and have means and are discontented with your present position, you may go there if you are a young man and desire to see something of the world. If you have a little cash to expend before settling, go and see the country.

WHO SHOULD NOT GO.

If you have a farm in Ontario, a wife and family, and are getting a comfortable living, you should not move without the advice of a friend as above mentioned, or by first going yourself and examining the country and selecting your lot. If you are a workman and without money, and cannot get as much pay as you want, or everything just as you could wish here, you will find your lives much harder in Manitoba at the present time. If you wish for railroad work as a navy you can please yourself. This journal is for farmers, and if a farmer's son cannot get on in his business without working as a navy, we pity him. No one should go from the older provinces to Manitoba without having friends there that he can depend on to direct him where to go or how to act, unless he first goes to the country and examines it. The time may come when people can obtain information

about lands, where they can get them and other necessary information, from an emigration agent at Emerson, the first point touched on reaching Manitoba.

Before touching on the bright side of our Manitoba tour, there is another matter requiring the immediate attention of our legislators, and one which we may with propriety refer to here, that is our

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

This is destined to be a very important subject, and must draw the attention of every settler in Manitoba and every British subject. These were the rightful owners of the soil, which produced animals for their support. The white population have designed plans to obtain possession of their grounds. Treaties concluded by the educated whites, although attempted to be made in a fair way, have now deprived these aborigines of the means of existence. No honorable British subject can for a moment countenance the idea that has taken hold of many of the white population in the States and some in Canada—that they should be exterminated as vermin. Although they may have at times attempted to drive the white men back, and killed some of the encroachers on their lands, very often this may have been done with quite as much justice as the gallows used by us to punish depredations committed by lawless and unprincipled whites. They may and no doubt have visited their vengeance on innocent whites, but they look upon white men as the aggressors, and even civilized communities often punish and kill a lot of innocents for the depredations of a few rabid leaders.

Our duty is to treat them honestly and kindly, to protect and instruct them how to obtain an existence. This can only be done in time and with patience, and at great cost. When starvation cut-off a few of them, which it soon will do, the whites will make raids on the property of the whites; they will be compelled to do this or die. We should prefer to steal rather than to starve to death, and death by violence is preferable to starvation. Our humane policy is to at once teach them how to live. It is no doubt difficult to make treaties with the Indians that would be most advantageous to them; they have to be humored. But some of these treaties, and even grants to or for the Indians, that have been made or given, are or will be of no value to them. Even if there is benefit to be derived from grants given to or for Indians, the white manipulator receives the profit and benefits. Implements, seeds and teams have been supplied to the Indians by the Government; the intention no doubt has been good, but the lack of judicious investments or instructions has caused the expenditure to be of no value except to the contractor who is favored with the order. \$70,000 was to be given to the Indians in cash shortly after we left Winnipeg; this is an annual payment to them. This money is only an injury, and it would be better to have it burned or thrown into a lake. They have to travel hundreds of miles to get it, and it is part of the year's work to come and have a good time for a few days; some get liquor, some gew-gaws, and some buy provisions or clothing. The money is soon in the hands of the Winnipeggers, and it only acts as an incentive to the Indians to run after and spend it, drawing them to Winnipeg instead of keeping them hundreds of miles away on their own land and encouraging them to cultivate it. It is worse than useless.

Great care should be taken in selecting men to attend to Indian affairs, to obtain those that have been acquainted with the Indians and have shown an interest in them. They must be instructed in agricultural pursuits.

MANITOBA HALF-BREEDS.

Scrip to the value of 160 acres of land has been given to every half-breed. This in nine cases out of ten has only enabled white speculators to grasp large tracts of land, to the detriment of the settlers, as the half-breeds have sold nearly all their scrip for whatever they could get. We give the following to show the abuse to which this scrip business has been carried and to show some of the doubtful titles that scrip-holders may be attempting to sell:

We called into the house of a half-breed on the banks of the Assiniboine river; a young man was in the house and several small children. We enquired of him how much land he had, how long he had been there, and how he was progressing. The farm was his father's and contained some hundreds of acres; he owned it now; the children were his brother's and sister's, all minors. We enquired about the scrip. He had sold the children's scrip and used the money for his own purposes; he merely got a trifle for it. We asked what the children were to get for their share. He said he should bring them up, clothe and educate them. This man had the old homestead now. The question may come up when the children are of age—Have they received an equivalent to 160 acres of land? No doubt many will not have received more than the old homestead and stock would have given them—an existence. Then who has a right to dispose of a minor's claim for a mere promise to a land-grabber? Who is responsible? A Government agent or judge sanctioned the discharge of such a title. Would Government be responsible for the acts of the agent, Government officer or judge? Many children will most probably be brought up by parties that never received a cent of the proceeds of the land. Can minors' claims be thrown away under the British laws? There is trouble brewing. A rich harvest has already been prepared in Manitoba for lawyers some time, twenty years hence at least. A lawyer in business informed us that the titles of much of the land were such that lawyers would have first-rate practices there in a few years about defective titles. Suppose a settler purchases a scrip lot, and that scrip was procured in an improper manner, would the settler lose his improvements, land and all? There are, we hear, many extremely dangerous people acting as land agents in Manitoba. We have heard of dishonest acts having been done. The speculative fever runs high; all are fanning the fever and many catch the land mania, expecting a rapid rise, as the agents are pretty sure to have some particularly eligible lots from which a fortune can be made in two years. Many, many have bought themselves land poor and must sell. The speculation is a species of gambling. The Government should frame their laws so as to discountenance gambling in any form, particularly so when it has acted so much against the real settlers who have been driven from the Dominion by it to make homes in Dakota, which some thousands have already done, most of whom, perhaps all, would have remained in this Dominion if our legislators had not countenanced land gambling. Perhaps too many of the members of the Government are the gamblers themselves; if so they may be sure to legislate more for their own pockets than for the good of the Dominion.

Some of the half-breeds are shrewd and can look after themselves. On the banks of the Red River we were invited into the house of a half-breed. Here we found every comfort and neatness, and education and refinement were here displayed. Some of the ladies played the piano very nicely; in fact neither color nor manners could distinguish them from ladies in our cities or in England. Many are very well off; in fact, were it not for the premium that Government gave to half-breeds the number would not be as great as it is, as many have lost the appearance of the Indian, and no one would know that they had Indian blood in them; but a trace to a great-great grandfather or grandmother implied a good grant of land, and that revived the knowledge of ancestry otherwise forgotten.