

same favors to the exhibition in the matter of transportation, that has been so generously granted in previous years. This action of the railways ensures the success of the exhibition for 1895.

THE QUARANTINE KEEPS OUT SETTLERS.

THE question of the quarantine regulations for live stock entering Canada was discussed at a meeting of the council of the Winnipeg board of trade held on Tuesday last. The question was referred to the council of the board of trade by the committee which is now working in the interest of the settlement of the vacant lands in the organized municipalities of Manitoba. This matter of the quarantine regulations is a most vital one in connection with immigration from the United States. Under the present regulations there is a quarantine of ninety days against live stock brought in from the United States by incoming settlers. These regulations are undoubtedly keeping out hundreds and thousands of good settlers who would otherwise move here from the western states and bring their stock and effects along with them. At present a large movement of people is going on from the drought-stricken regions of Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota and other parts of the western states. The farmers who are leaving these districts find it almost impossible to dispose of their stock, owing to the very low prices which prevail there. Many of them would like to come to Canada and bring their live stock along with them but the ninety-days quarantine at the boundary practically paralyzes the movement in this direction. Every day letters are received in Winnipeg from parties in the States, stating that the only thing that prevents them from coming here is the quarantine regulations, and asking if some modification cannot be made in their behalf. In fact the situation is just this, that we cannot derive anything like the advantage we should reap from the present movement from the western states, under the present quarantine regulations. These western states at the present time afford by far the most promising field wherein to seek settlers for our broad prairies and park lands, were it not for the quarantine regulations. Immigrants from Europe are not affected by the quarantine regulations because they do not bring live stock along with them. In the case of these western states' farmers, they cannot afford to sacrifice their live stock in order to come to Canada, neither can they stand the expense of the quarantine if they came with their stock. They are thus compelled to remain where they are, or seek homes in more favored localities in their own country.

This is the view of the case which The Commercial can present from the standpoint of the immigration question. On the other hand, there is the very important consideration of protection to our live stock interests at home. At the present time Canadian cattle do not enjoy any advantage in British markets over cattle from the United States. Our authorities, however, hope to obtain the

admission of Canadian cattle into British markets on more favorable terms than is now accorded the cattle of either country. This is the principal reason for the strict quarantine kept up. If it can be shown that Canadian cattle are free from disease, and a strict quarantine is maintained to prevent the admission of diseased cattle into the country from abroad, it is hoped that this will influence the British government in time to remove the disabilities now placed upon Canadian cattle in British ports. However, the British government has for the past two seasons stoutly refused to make any changes in favor of the importers of Canadian cattle, and there does not appear to be any hope at the present time that our cattle will be accorded any more favorable treatment in British ports. This being the case, it is worth while considering whether it is advisable to deprive ourselves of thousands of excellent settlers who are anxious to come to the country in the vain endeavor to induce the British authorities to grant us more favorable treatment of our cattle in their markets. It would, of course, be necessary to have a close inspection of live stock brought into the country, with the object of preventing the introduction of disease, in the interests of our farmers, quite aside from the export trade interests. A long quarantine, however, would hardly be necessary for this purpose. A simple inspection of the animals on entering, and the detention of any suspicious cases would seem to fill such requirements. If our cattle are to be subject to the same regulation as cattle from the United States, on arrival at British ports, these quarantine regulations, which are keeping out so many valuable settlers, might as well be very materially modified in the interests of immigration from the western states.

SETTLING OUR VACANT LANDS.

In obtaining settlers for vacant lands in organized districts, the great necessity is land at merely nominal prices, if not absolutely free. The idea of free land is very strong in the minds of nearly all immigrants who come here. They prefer going to remote districts where they can get free government land, in preference to paying even a very low price in the organized districts. All the arguments to show the advantage of locating in a settled district, near markets, railroads, schools, churches, etc., weigh but little with the average newcomer, when it means paying a few dollars per acre for the land in the settled districts, as against the free land to be obtained by going to more distant parts of the country. As The Commercial pointed out in an article on this question last week, the first thing necessary is, therefore, to offer our lands on a basis which will attract settlers. There are plenty of good settlers obtainable if the lands can be secured on the right basis. If the municipalities and other bodies and persons holding land in the organized municipalities are not prepared to come forward and offer them for settlement on such a basis, the present movement to secure settler might as well be dropped at once. It is, therefore, greatly to be desired in the interest of the

movement, that municipalities especially should at once come to the decision to make their lands available for settlement on specially favorable terms.

Next to securing the lands on the right basis, the question of drainage is of most importance as regards settlement in a number of districts in the eastern portion of Manitoba. There is no richer land to be found anywhere, but a thorough system of drainage must be carried out to render large areas of these lands really valuable for settlement. This matter of drainage has not been given that attention which it should have received in past years. The members of the government, however, appear to be alive at present to the importance of drainage, and doubtless better progress will be made in the immediate future in this matter.

THE MARRIAGE SETTLEMENT.

UNDER the head of "Preferences," in an article in The Commercial of last week, we mentioned the marriage settlement as one very objectionable feature or form of preferred claim. More might be said upon this subject than could be presented in a general article. It seems only reasonable to contend that marriage settlements should be registered within a reasonable time, in order to maintain their validity. We have had some shameful exhibitions in Manitoba, of a wife suddenly stopping in and selling out her husband, under a marriage settlement claim, leaving other creditors without any means of enforcing payment of their just claims. The marriage settlement had been kept secret for years, and jobbers went on freely selling to the parties, in entire ignorance of the existence of a secret claim of the wife against her husband.

There is every reason to believe that these marriage settlements are made use of to defraud, knowing that the claim of the wife can be kept secret and from the knowledge of the creditors. It can then be made use of by a thoroughly unprincipled person, to perpetrate a most villainous system of robbery of his creditors, in a manner which would put an ordinary highway robber to shame.

Legalized stealing in this manner should be guarded against by providing for the compulsory registration of such claims. Even aside from the opportunity of planning a robbery of creditors, the wife has a special knowledge of her husband's affairs and it is not fair that she should be entitled to hold a secret claim against him of this nature, as it gives her an undue advantage over the other creditors. If it were compulsory to register claims of this nature, then the ordinary creditors of a trader would know where they stood and they could govern themselves accordingly. It is the secrecy of the thing which is most objectionable. There are a number of ways in which the dishonest trader can play into the hands of his wife, his sister or cousin or aunt, or some other relative, to the disadvantage of his ordinary creditors, without providing special ways for doing dirty work of this nature.

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