

persons from the mother country, but the transfer of a large mass of people from one set of geographical conditions to another. The first thing necessary, then, is to discover as minutely as possible what these geographical conditions are, how far they can be turned to account by a new population, and how far they must be modified in order that the colony may be carried to its highest development.

Before inducing farmers to migrate to any particular region, it would be only proper to let them know to what extent that region is suited to their requirements. Is the soil adapted to agricultural operations? Is there a sufficient rain-fall to make such operations successful? If not, is irrigation possible? What about sanitary conditions? If all these conditions are favorable, what about means of communication and transportation? All this necessitates a very thorough, detailed, and long-continued geographical study of a colony, and much more minute and ample information than is usually supplied by emigration agents.

It is a most short-sighted policy in a young colony to neglect the survey of its territories. There is no better way to spend public money than in maintaining an efficient survey service and a carefully-selected chain of meteorological stations. For evidently the first thing necessary to the development of any country is a complete knowledge of its resources, and the basis of such knowledge is mainly geographical in its character. A thorough and precise knowledge of the geographical conditions, in their widest sense, of all the colonies, would have averted many serious

errors—errors as to the class of people for whom they are adapted, the products for which they are suited, the imposition of tariffs, the fostering of particular industries, and the limits within which commercial enterprises is possible.

At the present time, when so much attention is being devoted to the settlement of the newer parts of our country, and to the development of its vast resources, a thorough knowledge of the geographical conditions of the various localities, would be of inestimable value to intending settlers, business men, or manufacturers. Much is being done both by our Dominion and Provincial Governments by way of exploring the country and investigating its resources; and the results of these investigations are embodied in numerous reports published by the various departments. But the knowledge thus acquired is of little value if it is not turned to some practical account. And I think I am safe in saying that the ideas possessed by the average individual regarding the character and extent of our resources are very vague indeed. Our boys and girls are burdened with lists of names of rivers, lakes, islands, cities, and such like, and with columns of statistics; but of true geography they know little. If we are to take our position as one of the leading commercial nations of the globe, our schools and colleges must assign a more important place than they do at present to the study of geography—a subject which, as we have seen, is of the deepest interest and of the utmost importance to the whole human race.