

Facilities for steel ship building in this country are of the best.

Signs are not lacking that Canadian ship building is even now becoming more active, as, for instance, the formation of a million dollar company at Collingwood, the increasing operations on Lakes Ontario and Erie, and the reported negotiations for steel ship-yards in Nova Scotia.

On the lakes the most active operations are at present on the American side. Twenty-five freighters are now building, to have an average carrying capacity of 9,063 tons each. Twenty-two of these are for the carrying of iron ore. Larger ships than formerly are now in favor, for but two years ago the average capacity was only 4,812 tons, and now nearly doubled. There should be similar activity on the Canadian side of the lakes, and if a bounty will give the encouragement needed there is good reason for its being granted.

#### RIDER HAGGARD'S VISIT

EXPERIMENTS in colonization still continue to be announced. Separate colonies are not encouraged in Canada, and the general tendency of settlement life is to break down racial divisions and mix the people together. But naturally immigrants of any one race, on first arriving, seek a place where they can settle as a colony by themselves. There are Swedish, Welsh, German, Doukhobor, Mormon, and other colonies in the Canadian West, and even the English have attempted the same community system, as witness the Barr colony. One of the most recent experiments along this line is the immigration scheme of the Salvation Army, already referred to in these pages.

The British government very recently sent the well-known writer, Rider Haggard, to investigate the charges under which the Salvation Army particularly is carrying on its immigration work and how it proposes to settle its colonists in Canada. Mr. Haggard was convinced of the excellence of those plans, and while he was not at liberty to announce the results of his investigations, he stated, before returning to England in April, that he hoped to propose a plan to the government by which Canada would secure a still larger influx of Anglo-Saxon settlers.

He believed that before long there would be an enormous competition for immigration and that the time was coming when the most desirable classes would be bid for.

Mr. Haggard was also impressed with the advantages of Canada as a field for settlement. Like most other oversea visitors, he liked the country, and he saw here a solution of the problem of England's overcrowded cities. His message was "back to the land." But one-seventh of England's population, he says, is living on the land, and matters are very little better in the United States; people are herding in the cities. Canada provides a way of escape, and it is his hope that by means of the Salvation Army schemes or others, an increasing multitude will be attracted hither. And Canada wants them.

#### BUSY WORKERS, FEW SOLDIERS

A significant evidence of good times in Ontario is the fact that considerable difficulty was encountered in enlisting men for the permanent corps to be settled in the Halifax and Esquimalt garrisons. The time was when fifteen dollars a month, improved rations, and the glory of a soldier's life would have attracted hundreds of young men, and the lists would have filled up quickly. But nowadays there is abundant work and good wages in any part of Ontario, and the Government's offer goes at a discount. The average young man with a taste for adventure probably has, at some time or other, an inclination towards the soldierly life, but not to such an extent that he will abandon for it the trade or craft in which he is already winning success. Canada is a land for workers; soldiers may be necessary, but the first instinct and need is for work.

#### THE DOMINION OBSERVATORY

A NATIONAL astronomical observatory has been opened in Ottawa, on the grounds of the Experimental Farm. It is a two-story building, with a revolving dome, and cost \$125,000, being fitted with the finest and newest appliances. Its telescope, with a 15-inch lens and a maximum magnifying capacity of fifteen hundred times, is the largest in Canada.

The observatory is intended to be to Canada what Greenwich is to Great Britain,