

of these "won't works," to obtain the men necessary for the construction work at hand.

With the object of obtaining the facts at first hand in respect to these two great questions which are disturbing the country, one politically and socially, the other industrially and socially—the Managing Editor of *Saturday Night* (Toronto) looked about for the proper person to send upon the mission, and finally picked upon a woman, Agnes C. Laut, the well-known author and trained investigator. Miss Laut scarcely needs an introduction. Writer of many important works, such as the "Conquest of the Great Northwest," "The Lords of the North," "Heralds of Empire," "Pathfinders of the West," etc., etc., her reputation as an author was international, while her newspaper training in the very country that she was to visit, her knowledge of local conditions, and above all her tenacity in getting to the bottom of a question when once she undertook the task, made her easily the first choice. At the time Miss Laut was at Panama looking over the ground for a series of articles. Upon her return she took train to Toronto. The whole matter was quickly arranged, and within a few hours she was on her way to the Pacific.

The questions which Miss Laut discusses in the pages of this booklet are two of the most important issues now before the Canadian people, while in the Asiatic problem the British people are vitally interested and will therefore do well to have an understanding of it from a Canadian point of view. These reasons, together with the fact that there has been a great demand for the articles which *Saturday Night* has been unable to fill, is the excuse, if excuse be needed, for their reproduction in the present form.

THE EDITOR.

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