

# The Dominion Illustrated.

\$4.00 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED PUBLISHING COMPANY (Limited), Publishers.

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Agent for Manitoba and the North West Provinces.

London (England) Agency:

JOHN HADDON & CO.,  
3 & 4 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, E.C.  
SOLE AGENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

1st FEBRUARY, 1890.



A remarkable impulse has of late been given to the work of colonization. The governments of Europe are vying with each other in schemes for the acquisition of new territory on which to settle some portion of the crowded population of the continent. In Great Britain fresh enterprises are being constantly started for the same purpose. Colleges have been established with a view to the preparation of young men of means for the farm in the new lands of the Empire. To meet the demand Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and other colonies, as well as our own Dominion, are offering inducements to immigrants of every class. The United States, Mexico, Brazil and the Argentine Republic have also immense tracts of unoccupied land more or less suitable for settlement.

For residents of the British Isles it might be thought that none of these rival claimants of Europe's emigration possessed so many advantages as Canada. It is easily reached at a moderate cost, it has ample means of communication, it is well provided with facilities for education and worship, enjoys the utmost freedom, civil and religious, and is altogether adapted to make the industrious and prudent settler prosperous and happy. For three-quarters of a century the promoters of immigration to Canada had to compete at a disadvantage with our more pushing, better advertised and more favoured neighbours. In the Old Country hardly any effort was made to retain the allegiance of those who crossed the Atlantic by directing them to the St. Lawrence rather than to the Hudson. Only now and then some loyal and far-seeing Englishman deprecated an indifference which was virtually building up a foreign power at the Empire's expense.

After the federation of the provinces it was felt that a more decided effort should be made to attract a fair share of Great Britain's emigration to Canada. Ontario made the first practical move, at the suggestion of Hon. John Carling, Minister of Agriculture, by sending the late Hon. Thomas White on a special mission to England, where his lectures opened the eyes of many to the importance of Canada as a home for emigrants. The Dominion Government has, since the opening of the North-West to settlement, and more especially since the inauguration of the Pacific Railway, lost no opportunity of urging the value of our vast prairie country as a field for colonization. The pamphlets issued by the Department of Agriculture and by the Railway Companies have spread the fullest information concerning our resources. Experts have traversed Canada from sea to sea and set forth the characteristics of every province.

Our soil, our climate, our mines, our fisheries, our scenery, our people, our institutions have been described by men of science, by special commissioners, by tourists enraptured with the boundless and varied wealth of the country. Farmers, professors of agriculture, capitalists, flocked westward to the new wonderland, the fame of which had gone abroad. Winnipeg grew up by magic. At the western terminus of the line Vancouver has surpassed it in the rapidity of its development. In the long interspace the transformation has been surprising.

But the progress achieved, welcome though it be, is but the starting-point to an ever-receding goal. The population of the North-West is a mere handful. It has been estimated that Canada beyond Lake Superior could support 100,000,000 souls, and still have a surplus of 600,000,000 bushels of grain for export. Such being the case (and this estimate is no mere guess), it is of the utmost importance that the work of colonization should be pushed forward with all possible vigour. The settler of to-day has rare opportunities. The pioneers of Ontario had to cope with hardships of which the modern immigrant knows nothing. To take up land formerly in the new districts was to accept isolation, drudgery, the lack of the conveniences of life, and years of up-hill struggle. Now all that is changed. Our settlers have the railways brought to their doors. If it does not precede them, it promptly follows them. They never leave the range of civilization. Before the close of the present year there will hardly be an inhabited spot in the Dominion unprovided with the means of access to the great centres of population and business. The rapidity with which the North-West has been brought into virtual vicinity with the world beyond on every side has been phenomenal. There are densely peopled countries that have not a tenth of its privileges in this respect. The advantages that it offers to the newcomer could hardly be exaggerated. All that has been written on the subject during the last ten years does not exhaust it. The pamphlets of two or three years ago would misrepresent its actual condition. What the settlers said in 1886 would but feebly shadow forth the prosperity they have since attained.

Of course, allowance must be made for droughts and other evils to which every land out of Paradise is subject. There are also, doubtless, instances of failure in the midst of general prosperity. The conditions of human life—which depend largely on individual character—are the same everywhere. Nevertheless, with all necessary deductions, western Canada is surpassed, as a field for immigration, by no country in the world. It has all the merits of a virgin soil, with its rare resources still undeveloped, with all the boons of advanced civilization. The lover of good things can fare sumptuously; the man of culture can have his books and pictures; the sportsman can have his heart's desire; honest laborious poverty can raise itself to independence.

In Europe are these facts known? They have been repeated again and again by men who "dare not lie"—men like Professors Tanner, Fream, Sheldon. We have our High Commissioner in London in constant communication with the classes and individuals who direct opinion. We have our immigration agents in the chief cities of the United Kingdom. The Hon. H. Fabre represents our interests in the French capital. A large number of persons resident in Great Britain

and Ireland and on the continent have visited Canada—some of them on special missions connected with emigration—and are aware of its advantages. That there are thousands upon thousands in the Mother Country who would gladly better their condition by transferring their penates across the sea, were they assured of success—including health and happiness—in their new homes no one need be told. Apart from the poorer classes, who require guidance, there are a great many above the fear of poverty, yet without any profitable scope for their energies, who would find in Canada just the opening that they long for.

Possibly a stray pamphlet or lecture or letter in a newspaper has given them a vague notion of the North-West. But they need something more than that. They may, perhaps, have heard disparaging remarks on what is called "Emigration Literature." They may recall Dickens's satirical description of "Eden," and be tempted to look upon the glowing accounts of New Canada as purposely exaggerated. Prejudices are slowly removed, and, even in this day of rapid communication, trustworthy information is but slowly acquired.

What the people of the United Kingdom really need, to have a just appreciation of Canada, as a home for immigrants, is to have its grand features, resources, industries, social life, kept constantly before them, till they become familiarized with them. An Englishman who sees an engraving, taken from a photograph, of a prairie harvest scene, of a British Columbia rose garden, of the streets of some of our young western cities, with their beautiful churches, giant hotels, and busy factories, of the elevators along our great railway, of a hunting party in Manitoba or a tennis court in some Rocky Mountain town, will have glimpses of our industrial and social life that cannot fail to make an impression on his mind. Now, the DOMINION ILLUSTRATED, as its name implies, and as was clearly announced on its first publication, was intended to serve this very purpose. In England the scenes depicted in its pages have created a surprise and admiration which have been expressed both in journals and private letters, and we are convinced from what we have learned that its distribution through the reading rooms of the United Kingdom would repay manifold the outlay thus occasioned to the Government. Perhaps for us to say so is departing from that seemly reserve which should guide and check the editorial pen. This, however, is a question that concerns the interests of the Dominion too closely to leave any consideration for feelings of personal delicacy. Three bound volumes are now ready for the shelves of the libraries, and the stranger who turns their pages will know more of what awaits him in Canada than he would gather from many volumes of statistics.

## THE DAIRYMEN'S CONVENTION.

A few days ago a deputation consisting of Mr. D. M. McPherson, of Lancaster, Ont., Professor Barnard, Secretary to the Quebec Council of Agriculture, and Mr. Fisher, M.P. for Brome, had an interview with the Minister of Agriculture, at Ottawa, on the subject of the Dairymen's Convention, which it is purposed to hold during the present month. The 17th, 18th and 19th of February have been fixed upon as the days on which the meeting will take place, and the capital of the Dominion will be the locality. The importance of the dairy interests of the Dominion