

Coming Immigration and Employment

We have always attached very great importance to the question of Immigration, and have given it very special prominence in our columns. What Canada needs particularly is the occupation of her waste lands by an industrious, thrifty and intelligent population. In order to secure this, it is the duty of her Government to hold out all reasonable inducements to healthy, active persons to come and possess the land. Comparatively speaking, the Dominion has been an unknown land to the emigrating masses of Europe; and so little has been done to diffuse information in reference to its resources, that it is not a matter of wonder that so few have come as permanent settlers in her territory; the wonder must be that there have been so many. It is to be hoped that the reign of indifference and red-tapeism in this connection is nearly, if not quite at an end, at least so far as Ontario is concerned; and that every thing will be done which can, in reason, be expected to fill our wide, fair Province with a numerous and hardy population.

As we have mentioned from time to time, agencies have been appointed in different parts of Britain for the purpose of giving all information and assistance to those proposing to emigrate to Canada, and to lead those who may have been thinking of other countries, to consider the claims and advantages of the new Dominion. It is to be hoped that these officials will do their duty with some measure of energy and good-will.

It is now universally acknowledged that far from the really good land of Ontario, having been all taken up, there remain millions of acres of very excellent quality. The barren range of hills which runs across the country, and presents so bleak and uninviting a prospect, has been surmounted in many places; and beyond, stretching towards Lake Nipissing, a wide, fair, fertile land has been explored, destined, we hope, to afford speedily comfortable homes to thousands.

There are in Ontario 77,606,400 acres of land. Of these only 25,297,180 have been surveyed; and of those surveyed only 21,879,048 have been granted and sold. There are thus about three and a half millions of acres surveyed, which are still in the hands of Government, and upwards of fifty millions upon which the surveyor's chain has not yet passed.

The Free Grant System is coming more and more into general use. Some forty-on

townships are now set apart for grants, and the Government promises to lay off more so soon as needed. Instead of having a few townships only at one part of the country, there are many now, as we suggested some months ago, more or less quite across the whole district which stretches from the Georgian Bay to the Ottawa. These townships are all accessible by means of the various colonization roads which have been opened up, and are year by year being extended further back. Eleven townships in the County of Renfrew; three in the Nipissing District; six in the County of Hastings; two in the County of Victoria, and two in the County of Peterborough have been recently opened in the free grant region for settlement under the Act. Let us repeat that, according to the terms of that Act, any head of a family can have two hundred acres of land as a gift on the performance of a few settlement duties in the way of building a house, clearing so many acres, and living for at least six months for each of five years on his location. Besides every child he has of eighteen years of age or more, whether male or female, may have each another hundred, so that a man with a large family may secure a large estate for himself and his children. We have no doubt that very many will take advantage of this arrangement, and the more the better. There is little propriety in crowding about towns, when so much land remains yet to be possessed. These free grants are not specially intended for new comers, but likewise and especially for those accustomed to the country, who may feel that to secure in the older districts as much land as their families need is quite out of their power. A large number have availed themselves of such grants and have had reason to be satisfied with the venture. No doubt many more, during the coming spring, will also make the trial, with the best results, let us hope, to themselves and the country. The amount of work afforded by the projected railways into those new regions will be very great, and the consumption of farm produce correspondingly large. Ontario can, in any average year, take a very large number of immigrants, but everything seems to intimate that never in her history has there been such a demand for all kinds of labour as there will be in 1870.

John Johnston of Geneva

The *Country Gentleman*, of Jan. 16th, gives a portrait of this distinguished agriculturist, and a memoir from which we cannot well forbear to make a few colla-

tions, mainly to show our young farmers how much can be gained by bringing brain work to bear upon the hard realities of farm life, and how necessary it is, if the farmer desires to succeed, when once he has put his shoulder to the work, to persevere in well doing to the end.

Born in New-Galloway, Scotland, in the year 1791, Mr. Johnston married in 1818, and came to the United States early in 1821. In October of the latter year he took possession of the farm where he has since lived, on the border of Seneca Lake, within a few miles of the village of Geneva. It was a stiff and uncompromising clay, some of it swampy, and though favoured in many respects as to situation, (a more charming site could hardly be chosen,) offered at the time a much better prospect for hard work than for a comfortable living. The new owner, however, had a genuine Scotch fondness for work, with the national perseverance to back it, and undertook the task in earnest. Twelve years later, in 1833, Mr. Shirreff, a well known Scottish agriculturist, visited this country, and published a narrative of the journey on his return, in which he spoke of Mr. Johnston's "sixty acres in wheat" as "equal to any crop of similar extent" he had ever examined. At a day when little attention was paid to unusual methods of promoting fertility, Mr. Johnston had constantly used lime and plaster (gypsum), which were admirably adapted to the soil, and, in connection with judicious management elsewhere, they brought him large returns. He began with them on a small scale, until the experiment proved that they were suitable for the purpose.

When underdraining began to be earnestly discussed in Great Britain, Mr. Johnston felt at once a deep interest in the subject. He became convinced of its advantages, and that it was precisely what a large portion of our land requires to enable it to bear the vicissitudes of the season and perfect its harvests. In the year 1835 he sent for a tile from Scotland as a pattern, and became the pioneer of tile draining in America. This necessitated a heavy expense that could only be met on borrowed capital, and people about thought the Scotchman was a little crazy then. However, in this, as with lime and plaster, his judgment was amply vindicated in the result.

The use of draining tile, wherever laid, very much ameliorated Mr. Johnston's land, and added to its productive area some fields that were before too wet to be of any real value at all. The winter-killing of the wheat was much reduced or