

LAW-ABIDING CANADA.

During the past year nearly 100,000 farmers have migrated from the United States to Canada. Towns have grown up and prosperity smiles upon them. Why this exodus? The cheapness and richness of our western land is one cause. In the early days of the Northern States the virgin land produced from 40 to 60 bushels of wheat per acre, and hardly ever cost more than \$5 per acre. By repeated cropping the yield has dwindled to as low as 10 bushels per acre. The Canadian Northwest is to-day what the United States Northwest was 25 years ago. But another reason is furnished by a farmer who has settled in Saskatchewan, which we reproduce from the "Northwest Review."

"I'll tell you what it boils down to," he says. "Ever since the settlement of this country began, it has been understood and recognized that the man who breaks the law is going to be jailed. It don't matter if he is as spry as a gopher nor as husky as a buffalo. It don't make any odds if he can crawl into a prairie dog's hole. If he breaks the law he is going to be jailed, good and sure! He can have fifty guns and \$50,000, he can have any sort of blame pull you like—but he is going to be jailed. It may take a day, a week, or a year; but he'll be jailed, sure. Maybe he'll kill a Northwest policeman—maybe he will. Well, then, he'll hang, for a dead sure thing! He'll never buy a Northwest policeman, nor he'll never escape jail if he breaks the law. All Canada knows it, and that's why this country is a good country to live in."

Certainly this crude letter is as strong an indictment of the lax criminal law enforcement in the United States as any learned lawyer or judge could write. Between the lines it tells of the condoning of lawlessness, or misplaced sympathy for murderers, or political chicanery in the granting of pardons and commutations of sentence, which have become so important a part in American criminal jurisprudence. Statistics show that in the United States less than 2 per cent. of homicides arraigned are convicted, while in Germany the figures show 95 per cent., the other European countries showing a gradual decrease in the number of convictions until Scotland is reached, with 34 per cent. Two murderers in a hundred in America are convicted; in Canada, the murderer, according to this letter from a Saskatchewan farmer, will "hang, for a dead sure thing."

This may not furnish the reason for the immigration of the 100,000 farmers into Canada, but there can not be a surer way of attracting good citizens than by a fearless enforcement of the laws; and there can not be a better way of inviting the criminal element than a lax enforcement of those laws. The honest and upright man has no fear of strict enforcement of penal statutes, but the thug will give such a state or country a wide berth.