

Main Street of North Western town, not on a railroad. Lots in this and similar places, or rather lots a subdivisions of these "extensive metropolis" were sold by unscrupulous real estate dealers to foolish investors for as high as \$500 a lot

time this district was being over-boomed, in-so-far as town property was concerned, a bright real estater bought this farm for a song. Sub-dividing it into lots and attaching a fancy nomenclature to it he placed it upon the market as town lots. These were offered for \$150, with easy payments of \$50 down and ten a month. But the buyer even with a clear title to a lot bought here has little chance of anything, even if the place had already a popula-tion of ten thousand, of which number it has not one twentieth.

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But this is not a treatise on the infamies of the western real estate operator, nor on the foolishness of persons who bought real estate in a haphazard manner—one which boys trading marbles at school have dubb-ed "on sight on seen"—but is only a dission to give the principal reason for the filling of western papers with the above

The curtailing of the flow of European money to Canada for investment purposes, the crowding into big centres by both Canadian and foreign born men and wo-

ten dollars that you cannot live them out of the land." He was, of course, referring to the filing fee and the three years' hardship that generally prevail before the settler gets his patent.

To a certain extent he was right in reference to a certain kind of homesteaders who, without much more money than the initial ten dollars to pay the filing fee, ignorant of conditions in a new country and without proper outfit or experience with which to battle against the first harshness of a new land, proved their inefficiency by quickly succumbing to the struggle and abandoning their holdings.

But this wit's famous remark has not held good in the cases of men who came equipped with machinery, means and farming knowledge. Of this latter class were some five thousand Americans, natives of such farming states as Iowa and Nebraska. Efficient offspring of pioneers who made these states from a wilderness to what they are to-day, they have acquired holdings in the wilderness and turned them into farms that now, with the advent of a railway, are men in the past, the ending of two great valuable after only a few years' possession.



Prospective Canadians—Russian Peasants before Land Office, about to seek a homestead

transcontinental railway construction jobs, the present prevailing high price of grain, and lastly and principally the realization that farm life offers bigger returns, greater independence, more leisure and freedom than a salaried slaving in the great cities, besides a lasting heritage—all these things working separately in the past, but now combined, have brought a climax to one period of western Canadian conditions. This was reached in the early fall of 1914; and now as never before are men and women of western Canada turning back to the land.

Farther west in northern Alberta, in the basins of the Peace and Athabasca Rivers -a district still thought by many as a bleak land, hospitable only to the furbearing animals and the Indians-men are now making this last frontier yield to the taming influence of the axe and the

plow. In reference to homesteading in these districts some wag, whose saving is now historic throughout the west, once remarked: "The Canadian Government bets one hundred and sixty acres against your equalled.

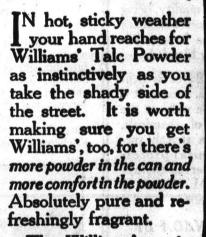
In the same class, from the Old World, the Galicians, Ruthenians and Germans, descendants from people skilled for centuries in intensive farming, proved themselves to be, though their success required greater and more persistent toil, thrift and frugality; they making up with these things what the American settler already had. Too, French and Scotch halfbreeds children of fur-trading forefathers, robbed of their ancestor's way of livelihood, have recently turned successfully to the farm. Even that least adaptable of men—the city-bred Englishman, is by sheer dogged tenacity forcing a foothold and becoming a factor in the taming of the last west.

But these are only the vanguard. For in ever growing numbers people from a hundred walks of life are about to turn to the farm lands of Western Canada. And from a variety of reasons and through a complexity of causes it is a certainty, rather than a prediction, that the statistics for the years 1915-1916 will show an outgoing from town and city to established farm and lonelier homestead never before

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