

FROM BRITAIN TO THE PRAIRIES.

A LETTER WORTH THE ATTENTION OF INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

What an Old Country Farmer Found on Coming out to Canada.—The Differences Between the United States and British America.

WINNIPEG, July 7.—I shall be very glad if you will print a communication from me, giving for the benefit of some of my fellow-countrymen in the west of England, the result of observations of the unoccupied lands of this country. I am farmer, and have been trained and brought up to scientific farming. Before I came over here I read a great many pamphlets on the Northwest lands, and about lands in the United States offered for sale to British settlers, but nowhere did I find anything that satisfied me that it was anywhere near the whole truth. As a great many people in the west of England have for a long time been like myself making

A POOR FIST OF FARMING in the old country it seems a pity more have not tried the plan of sending out some of the younger people to this country instead of to the States to see for themselves what the country is like, and report to those left behind, who one preparing to emigrate, and must emigrate soon if they want to escape downright ruin at home.

I have nothing to say against the books issued by the Canadian Government as they are mostly the reports of practical agriculturists who have seen the country. Still I must confess I had but a

VERY HAZY IDEA.

of the British Northwest, as it really is, when I landed here at last and began looking about me. So far as the advantages of climate, markets and prices go, I must confess if the books were to be believed, the reports I had read about Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Utah, California, Minnesota, and other parts of the northwestern and western States were far more to my liking. For instance, I think, to tell the truth, the reports of summer frosts in Canada, want of water in some places, of roads and railways in other parts, of fuel somewhere else, and so on to the end of the chapter, had a very discouraging effect on my mind when I began to think seriously of where I should go for the purpose of eventually making

NEW HOME IN THE WESTERN WORLD. The reports I read from the western States were entirely free from the drawbacks I had heard so much about in the British Northwest. There were districts in Utah, in Dakota, and western Missouri, which particularly took my fancy. Their superior advantages, however, were in the end more than counterbalanced by the strong desire that has never left me, to die as I have lived under the British flag, owning allegiance to no sovereign, potentate or president on earth but my Sovereign Queen Victoria. Finally friends who had written to Mr. J. G. Colmer, the Canadian High Commissioner's secretary, received replies to their enquiries very courteously written, that greatly facilitated the journey I proposed to make.

I have now seen and travelled over a very

WIDE AREA OF THE BRITISH N. W. I have also talked personally with some of the United States farmers who have come here from Minnesota, Dakota and other northwestern states. The men are without exception so far as I have seen them, an extremely, intelligent, sharp go ahead lot, well up in western farming, and thoroughly posted in the advantages and disadvantages of all the western states, to which efforts are being made to attract British immigration through the extensive machinery many years established in the old country. The emigration books gave me one side of the question; they gave me the other. I soon learnt enough to place

VERY LITTLE FAITH.

in United States emigration pamphlets and was astonished to discover that owing to bad climate, severe seasons, heavy losses, high prices of necessities, the exactions of railway and manufacturing monopolists controlling the markets and necessities of agricultural operations, the hold of grain manipulators on the elevators and dealers in wheat and all other grain, the jobbery in lands and taxes, and the confiscations of mortgaged lands, that the United States was no longer a place for an English farmer to go to. They frankly disclosed what they knew on the other hand of the lands they had

taken up on this side of the frontier. Some of them had been long enough here to produce

THREE YEAR'S SUCCESSIVE CROPS. They had gone through the worst experiences of summer frost, variations of temperature, and everything else I could think of. They could think of, and the sum and substance of it all was that not a man would return to the States on any conditions that could be named, and those I spoke to were so satisfied with the climate, the fertility of the soil and surrounding conditions that they were sending home to the States letters urging their friends to follow them and take up land.

MY OWN OBSERVATIONS, I must say, confirm what I have heard and above written as to the fitness of this country for British farmers to settle in. Here, undoubtedly, as I have learnt and seen by personal observation and enquiry, a man can make money in farming, and, if he understands his business, and is not afraid to soil his fingers, make it very much faster than he would ever dream of doing in his wildest visions at home in the old country; and own his own farm in the bargain. I have not yet chosen my own land, but hope to go out with a party of Dakota men next Monday and expect to join them. This is a course I would recommend to others. The only real drawback I can see to this country is the way people come out without an idea where they are going. Some may get imposed on, some may make bad selection for want of local knowledge, some may get too isolated and homesick and lose heart. The true way is to

JOIN HANDS WITH OTHERS. and if you can find some who are acquainted with western ways and requirements it is far better. There is a thing I can say for Canada in this respect, namely, that there are responsible government agents, "land guides," and others who will give you honest and reliable information, and this in such a vast new country, is of course, invaluable. But British Northwest America is so enormous in extent and so varied in soil and productions there is practically no end to one's choice. You could empty every farmer in England into the British Northwest and there will be still room for millions to find homes in.

I have written this letter more for the

INFORMATION OF MY OWN FRIENDS than for the general public, as a convenient form for acquainting them with my impressions so far and save a separate letter just now to each, so if you consider the communication of sufficient interest to print, and will send me as many copies of the paper to the enclosed address as the dollar bill here-with will cover, I shall feel very much your debtor, and some day will hope to forward you some detailed and practical information which may be worth the attention not merely of my own friends, but of the agricultural classes at home generally who are thinking of emigrating, as I understand the ANGLO-SAXON is very widely circulated among farmers' clubs and institutes and the reading rooms in the market towns in the old country, and very much sought for.

I remain, your obedient servant,

JOHN GERLOCH.

Death of Hon. John Robson.

Hon. John Robson, the premier of British Columbia, died in London shortly after his arrival there from Canada. He met with an injury to a finger which caused blood poisoning and notwithstanding the best medical skill he breathed his last in the imperial capital.

He started out as a reporter in Hamilton, Ont. He ran his newspaper at New Westminster so vigorously when he started it thirty years ago that the government soon put him in jail. A mob broke the door open and set him free. He became wealthy afterwards through good investments. He was 68 years of age and intended to retire from politics next year, when it was understood he would be knighted and made lieutenant-governor of the province. He was a man of the strictest personal integrity, spoke frequently on temperance—he being a life long abstainer—and was prominent in Sunday school and other work connected with the Presbyterian church.

The Queen sent a wreath to be placed on the coffin. The remains were accompanied by Mrs. Robson, widow of the deceased Premier from Liverpool to Quebec.

The funeral service conducted at St. Margaret's Church by Archdeacon Farrar, is regarded as another sign of England's concern in the joys and sorrows of her colonies, as St. Margaret's is the parish church of the House of Commons.

CROP PROSPECT REPORT.

NEWS GATHERED FROM THE N. W. WHEAT CENTRES.

Wheat 28 Inches High on July 5th at
St. Ignace, N. W. Wheat Centres.

Gladstone.

Gladstone, July 6.—We are having splendid weather for the crops which are looking first rate. In a few days many acres of wheat in this neighborhood will be out in head. The straw will apparently be a good deal shorter than last year.

A large quantity of land has been broken this year. The breaking season is about over now and farmers are beginning to think of preparations for hay-making.

Gainsboro.

Gainsboro, July 6.—Delightful growing weather. Crops of all kinds are looking splendid.

Wild strawberries are ripe and the country is seen at its loveliest now. Wild flowers are abounding in most gorgeous profusion.

Enthusiastic Over the British Far West.

Winnipeg, July 6.—Mr. H. Nourse Newton, a gentleman well-known through the western territories and Columbia, is in the city. Mr. Newton has spent some time travelling through British Columbia, and is thoroughly conversant with its general resources. He is especially enthusiastic over the future of the province for hop growing and small ranches.

Mr. Newton is here for the purpose of floating a company for the development of a large timber limit in one of the most prominent portions of the Pacific province. He also has the handling of large ranches in the Okanagan district. Should Mr. Newton be unable to float his scheme here he will proceed to Eastern Canada.

Mr. Newton, who is an extensive traveller, having circled the globe three times, speaks very highly of the hospitality and geniality of the people of the Canadian Northwest generally. He has made many friends since coming to Winnipeg. Mr. Newton's grandfather, the late Col. Newton, K. H., was commander of the celebrated Royal Canadian Rifles, which were stationed in Montreal over forty years ago.

Stonewall.

Stonewall, July 5th.—Grain buyers Henderson and Williams are off the market for the present.

Crops are doing well. Splendid weather prevails.

The Growing Crops in the Northwest.

Brandon, July 4.—The hottest day of the season. The crops around the vicinity got a good rain on Sunday, which has much improved the appearance of the country.

Fairmasede.

Fairmasede, July 5.—The crops are doing even better than was expected by the most hopeful.

Some fine deer have been seen in the bluffs near here of late.

Duck Lake.

Duck Lake, July 4.—A large number of settlers have arrived here recently. Some twenty Belgians came in without a cent. The C.P.R. agent here offered them work on the main line which they gladly accepted. They start today.

The crops in this district are looking very well indeed. We have been blessed with lots of rain, and they are now even up with last year at same date.

Austin.

Austin July 5.—A nice shower fell around this district Sunday, and was much needed. Since then we have had beautiful warm days. The crops on the high lands are 28 inches high, with the promise of a big yield.

Souris Minerals.

Winnipeg, July 4.—Coal is not the only mineral in the Souris district, and experts are now there looking over the ground with a view to the utilization of the clay. Mr. John Caldwell, of Montreal, who has been selecting lands for the Baron Hirsch association, and an expert in the manufacture of bricks and other products of clay, is enthusiastic as to the quality of the clay in the district. He says it is No. 1 in quality, and abundant in supply, suitable for crockery, sewer pipes, fire and building bricks.

There is also a very fine quality of mineral paint, which can be procured at a minimum cost, as well as limestone and sand. Mr. Caldwell has travelled extensively in the interests of these industries, and declares that the sample of clay in the Souris district is the finest he has ever seen.

A good reason—Tommy (inquiringly): "Mamma, is this hair-oil in this bottle?" Mamma: "Mercy, no! That's muckilage." Tommy (nonchalantly): "I guess that's why I can't get my hat off."

THE GLORIOUS BRITISH HERITAGE.

An Empire Containing Every Element. Every Soil and Every Product of Nature.

The June journal of the proceedings of the Royal Colonial Institute, London, contains a particularly noteworthy paper, read at the Institute on New Zealand and the Empire, by W. B. Perceval, Esq., agent general of New Zealand. In his introductory remarks, Mr. Perceval said:

No one who attends the monthly gatherings of this Institute, and listens to the various papers which are read, can fail to be impressed with the vastness, the wealth, and the mighty force of our great Empire, and to acknowledge the importance of making the inhabitants of each portion of that Empire better acquainted with the history, the people, and the resources of its constituent parts.

Distributed as that Empire is over THE FOUR QUARTERS OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE,

we find within her limits every climate, every variety of soil, every product; so much so that the British Dominions can supply almost all the wants of every member of the Empire, without going outside her own possessions. What a glorious heritage, what a field for the energy, brains, muscle, and money of our people! What an estate to develop! And yet we see England allowing her people and her capital to go to foreign lands. Money almost fabulous in amount has been sunk in the Argentine, in Egypt, in Turkey, and in a hundred other places, and money has been lent whenever asked for to European nations to build machines of war, possibly to fight against and weaken each other, but also possibly to be used in warring against England herself. While this goes on, Canada, South Africa and Australasia have.

VAST AREAS OF FERTILE LAND

crying out to be tilled and peopled. There our own kith and kin are waiting, as an advance guard, to welcome us; there our own language, religious instincts and traditions coexist; and there that liberty which is the characteristic of our glorious constitution has been transplanted. Yet we allow this vast estate to remain only very partially developed, letting most of it lie waste while a large portion of England's population is half-fed and half-clad. Statesmen spend their time in talking about model dwellings, compulsory insurance against poverty, in devising engines of war, and squabbling over the extent to which an island may be allowed to manage her own affairs, to the exclusion of the larger

QUESTIONS OF IMPERIAL MOMENT, which, once settled, would settle at the same time what appear now as problems defying solution. From the discreditable indifference shown in the early part of this century to the miserable condition of our poor, we now bid fair to rush to the opposite extreme by supporting so-called philanthropic schemes, many of which, if carried out, would be a premium to improvidence and educate the people to the helpless leaning on the State as the universal provider. Given the land, labor, capital, intelligence and energy possessed by the British Empire, it is not to the credit of the statesmen, and political economists of this enlightened century that such a large proportion of the people of the Empire should be

IN MISERY AND WANT, not the want which must always exist as the legacy of crime, waste and improvidence, but the want which co-exists with the desire to be thrifty and industrious, and the inability to get out of the ruck of poverty and misery. It is presumption for any one man to suppose that he can solve such a mighty problem; but, in my poor opinion, a condition precedent to the solution is a state of mind which regards

THE EMPIRE AS A WHOLE and which recognises the undeveloped resources and latent power of that Empire. Forgive me for expressing the opinion that English public men and Englishmen generally are too prone to consider questions from an English rather than from an Imperial point of view, hugging the erroneous idea that the British Isles are the British Empire. The chief work of this Institute is to educate the British public to a more intimate knowledge and higher appreciation of what has been aptly termed "Greater Britain," for it requires little penetration to see that the time is not far distant when the offspring will be more powerful than the parent, when the Colonies will be more populous, richer, and more important than the Mother Country.

19 hours a day for 25 cents.
Rev. Madison C. Peters, in a sermon preached in New York made the following among other statements: "There are trained sewing women in this city working nineteen hours a day for twenty-five cents. Boys' knee trousers bring thirty-five cents a dozen, trousers from twelve and a half to twenty-five cents, and shirts from six and a fourth to twelve and a half cents. The injustice, the oppression, the inhumanly long hours, the starvation wages, the shop girls' weary hours of standing after she is through with the thousand demands upon her! What a theme for the reformer or the novelist. I wonder the Almighty does not grind between the millstones of his wrath the human ghouls who grow fat by drinking the blood and eating the flesh of the poor who work for them."

THE SONS OF ENGLAND

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

BENEFICIARY DEPARTMENT.

Assessment System.

The Beneficiary Board is now prepared to receive applications for increased beneficiaries. The Beneficiary is now composed of two classes, viz.: A and B.

Class A includes the present \$500 and \$1,000 Certificates.

Class B represents the increased \$1,000 Certificates.

All Beneficiary members at present in good standing will be eligible to join Class B (providing they pass a satisfactory medical examination), on payment of \$2.00, \$1.00 of which is to be paid the Local Examiner, and the other sent to the Beneficiary Board, less the Lodge Secretary's fee of 25c.

Class B contains no Total and Permanent Disability clause.

The rates of assessment in Class B is the same as in Class A, and until such time as an assessment realizes \$1,000, the heirs or legatees of a deceased member shall be entitled to receive only such an amount as shall be realized by an assessment made upon all members in good standing in Class B at the time of his death.

All old members of the Beneficiary over 50 years of age, desiring to join Class B, may do so until six months from the date of this circular,—that is, November 2nd, 1892, after which time no such application can be entertained.

Members joining both Classes at the same time will pay an entrance fee of \$5.00; \$1.00 to go to the Medical Examiner, and the balance to be sent to the Beneficiary Board, less the Lodge Secretary's fee of 50c.—25c. for each certificate.

The Beneficiary Board meets on the First Wednesday of each month. The age of an applicant is made up to the day the application reaches the Supreme Grand Secretary's office; for example, if the applicant is examined by the Lodge Surgeon, say on the 10th of the month, and he would be fifty on the 22nd of the month, and it doesn't reach the Supreme Grand Secretary's office until after the 22nd, it bars him from being admitted.

The Entrance Fees must in all cases be forwarded with the application.

JOHN W. CARTER,

S. G. Secretary.

Toronto, May 4th, 1892.

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