

done bear to the whole work intended to be covered?" And then, becoming suspicious, goes on: "Is it possible that money has been made by some one connected with this work; and that more money is made by some interested person by leaving the railway unfinished than by finishing it?"

TERRITORIAL IMMIGRATION.

[COMMUNICATED.]

No. 2.

In discussing the question of Canadian immigration, it will be necessary to glance at what may be called the IMMIGRATION WORLD, in order that the question may be better understood in its more limited sense. Of late years, the countries competing for the surplus and other population of the old lands may be named Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Australia and South and Central Africa. The movement of population to wards these countries has been on a large and almost national scale. All the countries of Europe have contributed to the volume of humanity that has transposed itself from the home of its nativity to the land of the foreigner, the only exception being the emigrants from the British Isles who have emigrated to British colonies. The rest have gone as strangers into a strange land, very often to find bitter disappointment.

As a general thing the British people are the best informed with regard to immigration fields, possessing beyond doubt the greatest experience, and rarely, if ever, losing interest in the welfare and future of their brethren who have emigrated from their mother land. In reviewing the records of emigration to Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay, it is regrettable to find that in order to catch the emigrant the grossest misrepresentation has been practiced, and to such an extent, too, that leaves no room to doubt that governments of these countries have connived at such frauds. The emigration pamphleteer has found an excellent vehicle for the propagation of falsehoods in emigration pamphlets. Thousands of deluded emigrants have been led into Brazilian and Argentine wildernesses and abandoned to their fate. Many of the better and more intelligent classes who have had a weakness for "republican institutions," have found the republics of South America to be republics in name only, government there being more or less of a mob, *minus* instead of *plus* the street constables, not infrequently a military autocracy, and varied occasionally by an insurrection, to say nothing of street revolutions and financial sky-rocketing on a scale to alarm all Europe.

Only a couple of years ago a distinguished American magazine writer visited the Argentine Republic, and amongst other things he said that the people of Argentina delighted to be called the Yankees of South America. In view of the recent financial developments there, those who have a prejudice against the American will unhesitatingly say the claim is allowed, but those who have studied the Argentine Republic and the ways of its government,

know that whether under Juarez Celman, or any of his predecessors, the government of that country at no time possessed the moral courage which has never been absent from the hearts of the people of the great American nation; for it is undeniable that there is a moral element in the United States comprising men and women of the highest and most honorable, as well as most patriotic national integrity; and this element, let us hope, is sufficiently strong at all times to guide the national councils along the lines of national honor.

I have deviated in order to remind the reader that the man, whether emigrant or not, who leaves his native country to take up his abode in another land, should make the fullest enquiry as to all circumstances of the new home, from government down to taxation. It is customary for the emigration pamphleteer to extol the soil and climate of the country to which the emigrant is invited. There are often all the advantages that may be claimed on their behalf, but on other and equally important questions there is either silence or gross misrepresentation. The soil may be good, but the climate execrable and unhealthy; the government may be a despotism, or corrupt beyond redemption; the financial condition may be hopelessly bad, and the trade policy a fetter to private enterprise; the leading men may all be living directly off the people, whom they grind with heavy taxation; the laws may be bad, and a hundred things may be of such a nature as to preclude all possibility of honest advancement. Into this state of affairs it is the safer plan to make the fullest enquiries before migrating.

The Canadian people are more or less inseparably connected with the continent of North America, especially with British North America. They possess a west of their own which needs settlement and development. The American, for some time past, has been looking closely into the chances in his own country. He is jealous of the Canadian unless the latter is satisfied to remain a hewer of wood; but if his ambition is for rising higher, then the Canadian is not welcome in the States.

In other words, and to cut the matter short, it is just as my old American friend has already said, "times have changed." That all lines of business industry in which there is any profit are overdone is not to be doubted for a moment. The reading public not infrequently hear through the newspaper that "so and so," who has made a fortune or a handsome competence in some of the western States or Territories, was originally a Canadian, but the reader overlooks the fact that the date when that Canadian emigrated was a long time ago.

The time has undoubtedly arrived when the Canadian, like the American, must look to his own country, especially to the newer portions, if he is to advance with the tide. The western territories are the field for the business man, as well as agriculturist, but the fact which stands most prominent is that the western territories is the best field for European emigration which exists in the known world to-day. There is no country without its drawbacks; the territories have only one—the winters as a rule are long and severe, but the other seasons

are pleasant, summer being delightful. The country is in a state of nature; there are no ruling classes, no first families, unless indeed it be the half-breeds, who are the most hospitable and the freest people I have ever yet met.

It will not be denied that the problem before many enterprising business Canadians, for some time to come, is room to establish and grow up at the head of some kind of business, the same as others have done in the older provinces. That the West offers this field is not to be doubted; if it is doubted, let me remind those who doubt what has already been done by business men. Who is Mr. J. H. Ashdown of Winnipeg? A shrewd business man who has worked himself to the front by square dealing and honest effort—not necessarily a brilliant man, but a man of good common sense, possessing the fullest confidence in Winnipeg and the Western Territories. Who is Mr. McDowell, M. P., of Saskatchewan? Another Englishman who is at the head of his class. Who is Mr. Davies, M. P.? An American originally, an "old timer" who has come to the front through his business influence and his knowledge of the country he represents. These instances may be multiplied, but it is not necessary. I merely mention these instances to show that men have risen in the Territories, and there is plenty of room for others to do the same. All cannot be agriculturists; there must be business men as well as professional men, and an extensive movement of a large population comprising the surplus of older countries must sooner or later take place. My object is to assist that movement, but along humanitarian and not speculative lines. A great deal has been said lately about pauper immigration, and much harsh and unjust criticism has arisen upon this subject. As a rule, rich people do not emigrate; poor people do, and when the emigration is proper the poor man has a fair chance to better his condition.

The modern system on which emigration has been conducted has been heartless in the extreme, hence there has been much misery and unnecessary suffering, as witness the influx to Washington Territory, which has been the work of boomsters. In the further colonization of the territories it must be made the duty of those in charge of immigration thither that it be conducted as much as possible on humanitarian lines—a course possible if supervised by the proposed National Association, but impossible if conducted by boomsters and land speculators.

In another article I shall present some facts which will show the reader that substantial advancement has been made in the territories by honest effort, notwithstanding many difficulties and a defective system.

TRANS-CONTINENTAL.

Toronto, August 17th, 1891.

—The Hamilton Electric Light and Power Company have begun work on their new building on the corner of Main and Catharine streets. It is to have a floor area of 8,000 square feet. The dynamos will be placed in this building. The new company are to spend \$40,000 in improving the system.