

From these two plans there follow practically all the defects that are now complained of. One result has been that there is a large surplus fund in the hands of the Insurance Committee of London. This money has accumulated because a vast number of insured persons have not yet troubled to select their doctor. A very strange situation has arisen as to the disposal of this money, which apparently belongs to nobody; and the solution of the problem has not yet been announced.

Regarded from the standpoint of public health the present arrangements do not anywhere succeed, in practice, in providing for the migratory worker, who may be ill in one county while his "panel" doctor resides in another at the opposite end of the kingdom. Again, the statutory promise of "adequate" treatment of every case is broken by the practical inadequacy of the provision for serious cases. Sanatorial and institutional treatment, apart from sanatoria for tuberculous patients, are outside the scope of the "medical benefit" provided by the act. Furthermore, there is no provision for the infants and children of the insured worker, or for his wife as such, outside the maternity benefit of thirty shillings.

There is one other point concerning which some amendment would seem to be desirable and it is a point which will not be without its effect, unless conditions change, upon the future emigration from this country to the Dominions of the Empire beyond the seas. The insured contributor, though he may have been paying unfailingly over a number of years into his "approved" society here, will lose every atom of benefit due to him on account of his State Insurance if he leaves the country. Unless, therefore, some arrangements can be made either by his society with its affiliations in other countries, or unless there be special provision by the State to meet the special circumstances, it may act as a serious deterrent to not the least suitable type of British emigrant.

THE WESTERN CROP PROSPECTS.

The North West Grain Growers Association have just issued an official statement dealing with the acreage under crop in the Canadian North West. According to their figures the total acreage under wheat in the three Prairie Provinces is 10,531,000 this year as compared with 10,126,000 last year, or an increase of 4 per cent. Their figures also show that there is an increase of 17 per cent. in the acreage under barley, and a gain of 8 per cent. under oats. The acreage under flax on the other

hand, shows a decrease of 21 per cent. The weather is reported as having been ideal for seeding, and the condition of the growing crop is satisfactory. If the warm weather continues with sufficient rainfall, there are excellent prospects of an enormous yield. The comparative figures showing the acreage for the two years, follow:—

	1912	1913	Inc.
Wheat.....	10,126,000	10,531,000	4%
Oats.....	5,065,000	5,470,000	8%
Barley.....	935,000	1,115,000	17%
Flax.....	1,400,000	1,100,000	*21%

* Decrease.

BRITISH EMIGRATION.

British statesmen are seriously perturbed over the increased emigration from Great Britain, and are suggesting various means by which this can be prevented. This great emigration which amounted to over 133,000 during the first four months of the present year, is coming at a time when the country is unusually prosperous, which in itself makes the situation more complicated. It would be easy to understand people leaving a country if work were scarce, trade dull and times hard; this is not the case, however, in Great Britain. Trade is expanding at a more rapid rate than at any time in the history of the country. Manufacturers are unusually busy, and in fact all kinds of business is at high water mark. Instead of men being out of work and unable to secure employment, manufacturers and business men are complaining that they cannot get sufficient help. Wages are also on the increase, while during the past few years many legislative measures have been put through, all seeking to better the lot of the working man, among these being the Insurance Act.

Despite this prosperity in Great Britain and the better condition of the working man, the exodus from the country continues to increase. During the month of April alone, 52,580 British immigrants left the United Kingdom, while for the past four months of the year, no less than 133,350 immigrants left the United Kingdom. These were distributed as follows:

Canada.....	66,911
Australia.....	23,432
New Zealand.....	4,881
British South Africa.....	3,366
Other Colonies and possessions.....	3,413
Total British Empire.....	102,008
United States.....	28,522
Other foreign countries.....	2,820
Grand Total.....	133,350