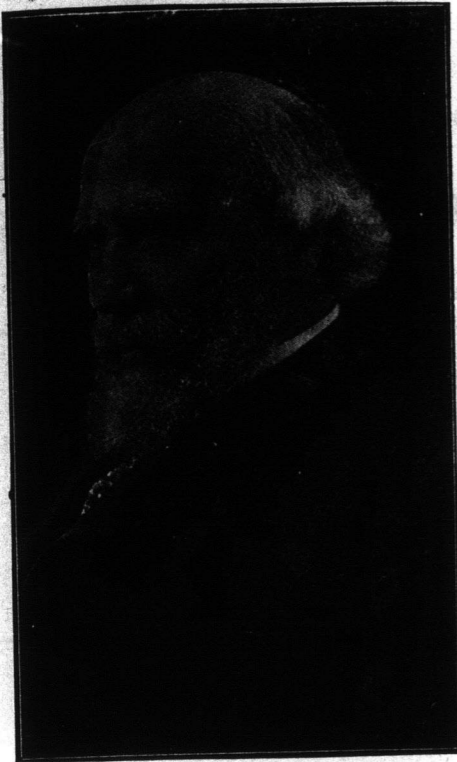


The Changes of Forty Years in the Canadian North-West.

By JAMES J. HILL (Chairman, Board of Directors, Great Northern Railway, St. Paul).

A generation ago there was no Canadian North-West. Within the knowledge of many living men the whole country now so named was supposed to be uninhabitable by a fixed population. It was a country between the Eastern provinces and British Columbia that might be bridged by railways but that no one dreamed of filling solidly with farms.



JAMES J. HILL

The population of "The North-West Territories" was not taken at all in 1871, and reached only 66,799 in 1891. To-day the two provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta alone contain 700,000 people. In this year of short crops their estimated wheat crop was over 72,000,000 bushels and their oat crop between 75,000,000 and 80,000,000. The settler in Western Canada to-day has only to compare it with communities south of the boundary and similarly situated to foretell his own future.

The future of Northwestern Canada is already written in the past of some parts of the American Northwest. The differences in soil, climate and resources are trifling as compared with the resemblances between these slightly separated portions of the interior American basin.

Western Canada needs now a wise combination of the development and the conservation of her resources. The fertility of her soil should be protected against early exhaustion by single cropping. She must so conserve her capital and credit as to assure to her at all times adequate means for turning her great natural resources into exchangeable values. Her towns and cities will grow with the growth of the country and it is not a far cry to see Winnipeg take her place in commercial importance alongside of cities which had a century behind them when Winnipeg was a remote trading post. These are not matters of conjecture, of distant statesmanship or of political alliance, but of intelligent and business-like treatment. The experience of others forms a real and important part of her present assets. Imitating their successes and avoiding their mistakes, she is certain of a high place in the great Canadian Confederation and an honorable and memorable share in its assured development.

James J. Hill

The Conservation of Ancestors.

By Rev. C. W. Gordon, D.D. (Ralph Connor.)

(Continued from Page 5).

before their fifth year. In East London there is neither room nor nourishment for the babies, and what wonder that 600 mothers in a single year smothered their babies rather than see them suffer the intolerable agony of slow starvation. How can the babies live where 300,000 people are forced to dwell in homes of a single room? And all this in London! the richest city in the world, the capital of the

world's greatest Empire, the crown of our Christian civilization! And what of New York, the glory of the new world! In New York with all its gilded luxury and all its mighty show of wealth, in the poverty section they found 360,000 rooms where men and women and little children made what they called their homes, and into these rooms the sunlight never fell. And this in the capital city of the nation that loves to think itself the type and fulfilment of all that is finest in human history. And to this day in New York this horror of dark homes still abides, embedded in the economics of a great money-loving and money-making nation. For, after ten years of furious protest and of strenuous fighting, there are still to be found 330,000 of these dark rooms in brave New York.

God save us from London and New York!

But London is remote from Canada by leagues of land and sea, and still more in manner and condition of life. Surely London and New York atrocities can never repeat themselves in our new clean Canada! Let us face the simple fact that without a shadow of doubt the doom is written for all the world to see, that before the century is one-half done, if the same social and economic forces are allowed to play upon our Canadian civilization, we shall see in Canada these cities and these city homes that will breed children physically and morally unfit, the degenerate ancestors of a passing race. Rich that race will be, cultured in the knowledge of the sciences and arts, splendid in its material achievement, but rotten at the heart, and doomed to disappear in the abyss of its own filth.

But thank God, these things need not be in Canada. The festering rottenness of London and Manchester, of Paris and Berlin, of New York and Chicago, need not be reproduced in the Winnipeg of sixty years hence, nor in the other cities destined to rise upon these plains. Please God, shall not, if our people only be wise to learn and brave to follow the ways of righteousness and of charity. If only in country and in village, in town and in city, Canadians are resolved that only such homes and only such environs for these homes shall be, as shall breed children clean of blood, strong of limb, sane of mind, pure of soul, the Noble Ancestors of the noblest race this old world has yet produced.

Charles J. Hill

On Christmas Day.

God rest ye, merry gentlemen; let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ, our Saviour, was born on Christmas Day.
The dawn rose red o'er Bethlehem, the stars shone through the gray,
When Jesus Christ, our Saviour, was born on Christmas Day.

God rest ye, little Children; let nothing you affright,
For Jesus Christ, your Saviour was born this happy night;
Along the hills of Galilee the white flocks sleeping lay,
When Christ, the child of Nazareth, was born on Christmas Day.

God rest ye, all good Christians; upon this blessed morn
The Lord of all good Christians was of a woman born:
Now all your sorrows he doth heal, your sins he takes away;
For Jesus Christ, our Saviour, was born on Christmas Day.

—Dinah Maria Muloch Craik.