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AND THE TERRITORIES.

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IMPROVING OUR COUNTRY TOWNS.

In these days of progress and improvement very little is left undone which is at all calculated to elevate the physical or intellectual conditions of men. Scattered throughout every civilized country there are organizations and institutions having objects in view which cover almost the entire range of human effort in the direction of improvement. These may not be so many or so highly developed in the western as in the eastern parts of North America, but if they are not, it is only because the necessity for them is not so keenly felt when the population is more scattered.

There is one institution, however, which is now well-established in the eastern parts of the United States, for which we think there is almost a crying need in the prairie parts of Western Canada. We refer to the town improvement societies which are accomplishing so much good in the direction of beautifying towns and villages. If the communities of Manitoba and the Territories, especially those which are situated on the flat prairies, where there is nothing to be seen within the bounds of the horizon but flat uninteresting prairie with occasional farm buildings, had an energetic society of this kind working in their midst, how much sooner they would lose that uninviting appearance so characteristic of most of them at present.

We have an idea that if the people of these towns, both men and maidens, would get together and form an energetic improvement society much good would result. They could at first spend some time in getting a comprehensive grasp of the needs of their village or town, whatever it might be, discussing ways and means and different plans of action, and by the time they were in shape to begin actual work, they would have the interest and sympathy of the entire community. We do not want to be understood as advocating that any of the actual work involved in these improvements be done by the members themselves, or at their expense, at least not any more than was done about their own properties, that would be too much to ask, but merely that they use their influence, individually and as a body, towards inducing the authorities to do it. It might even be within the range of possibilities if the right way was taken, to get all the people of the town, whether members of the society or not, to contribute something toward

a general fund to help on the work, they would only need to see that the work was in the interests of the community as a whole. If only in the matter of tree-planting, the expenditure would amply repay the community in a few years for its outlay. How much more inviting would a town appear to a traveller or homeseeker, which had its thoroughfares and public and private properties lined with healthy shade trees, than one without any such adornment.

We hope that what we have said on this subject will at least commend it to the careful consideration of the people in the country places of Manitoba.

MANITOBA'S FUEL SUPPLY.

The Manitoba Government is to be commended for the wise legislation by which it has secured for the people of Winnipeg and the province generally a plentiful supply of cheap fuel. It will be remembered that last year the Government made an agreement with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company to construct a branch line to the coal fields of the Souris district in southern Assiniboia. At the same time an understanding was come to with the Dominion Coal Company whereby they would mine and market the coal. As soon as these matters were arranged immediate steps were taken to put the scheme in operation. The C. P. R. with its characteristic zeal at once commenced to build the railway. The work has been carried on as rapidly as possible until the road was completed, and during the first week of this month the first car-load of the new fuel was brought into Winnipeg.

One effect of the opening of these mines will be the immediate cheapening of fuel. Coal that has heretofore been sold at \$7 a ton on track at Winnipeg will in competition with this be only worth \$4. The coal is said to be of good quality the best that is to be found within a paying distance of this market. The province now has this question of fuel supply practically settled, manufactures will no longer be hampered by the want of it and householders will owe a debt of gratitude to those who have been instrumental in getting such a material reduction in cost of this necessary article.

TWO WAYS TO DO IT.

What a contrast there is between the method pursued by the Dominion Government in carrying on its immigration work and that of the Manitoba Government. Take, for instance, the season of 1892, which is admitted to be the best in Canada's history. The Dominion Government made no particular effort to take advantage of the advertisement afforded by the wonderful crop of 1891. The same old sing-song routine was kept up, foreign agents became if anything more listless and all the golden opportunities were let slip. No one seems to have any very distinct idea of what the Government was trying to do, there was an uncertainty about the matter which was not calculated to make their efforts of any very great benefit to the country. Late in the season the charge of this work was transferred from one department of the Government

to another, and following on that move came the announcement that the agency system was to be abolished. We do not pretend to say that these were not good moves, the latter had at least the recommendation that it would effect a great saving to the country, but we do think that it is about time the Ottawa Government came to some decision as to how much it is going to help in the work of peopling the vacant farm lands of Canada. Instead of being the leader in the work it is overshadowed by the Provincial Governments and private corporations.

How differently the Manitoba Government is treating this matter. No sooner did the men who composed it get into power than they recognized the necessity of having an efficient Immigration department. No time was lost in getting things into shape and with Premier Greenway as Minister of Agriculture and Immigration an improvement was at once made. The work done during the past season has been especially fruitful as the crowds of settlers coming into the country testify.

The results of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's work is also an example of what can be done by the systematic carrying out of a definite plan.

There is some reason to believe that no further cause for complaint against the work of the Dominion Government will exist as the prominence which has been given to this question of population by the Canadian press and Canadian people since the taking of the census, has awakened it to the real necessity of doing something. Let us hope that henceforth the Dominion and Provincial Governments, the Hudson's Bay Company, the C. P. R., and all Canadian railways and land holding corporations will be found working hand in hand for the peopling and development of this glorious Dominion.

OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Manitobans generally, and Winnipeggers in particular, have had their attention particularly attracted towards their public educational institutions during the past few weeks, the midsummer examinations and closing exercises being the attraction.

Few people who are not directly connected with this branch of the public service understand the extent to which the public school system of Manitoba has been developed within the past few years. As a system it has now very nearly reached perfection, and will be still nearer it when the bill of the provincial legislature doing away with separate schools for Protestant and Catholic children have been made law. Manitobans seem to be unanimously resolved that they will have the very best school system that brains can invent, or money buy.

It seems now to be a popular fad with Canadians to bestow on the cities of the Dominion distinctive titles. We have Toronto, "The Queen City"; New Westminster, "The Royal City"; Brandon, "The Wheat City"; and numbers of others. Winnipeg although already given the title, "The Prairie City," should be called "The School City." It has already earned more than a local fame