

Between these extremes lie the vast agricultural resources of the greater part of our land. The Prairie Province of Manitoba is one vast wheat field producing this staple product for the world's supply in a quality and with a generosity declared by official investigation to be unrivalled elsewhere.

Our mines alike in the Maritime Provinces and more especially in British Columbia and in the Yukon are attracting the gold hungry from every corner of the earth, the gold mines alone promising large returns for one hundred years to come, and the more valuable deposits of the commoner minerals being simply exhaustless.

An American authority declares that, "No country in the world possesses so much iron and nowhere is it quite so accessible to manufacturers." History, it is said, has proved that, "no nation has become great, that has failed, for natural or other causes, to develop an iron industry"; if this is so, the importance of Canada's iron deposit is evident.

Her coal deposits are as valuable and as extensive, and in the great central provinces they exist in forms so easily accessible that the furnace room may have its coal supply at its very door.

Measurements and statistics are useless here. In all those natural resources that have formed in other lands the foundation for material prosperity Canada stands in the front of the nations. Here are fields waiting but the tickle of the agriculturist's machinery to blossom into harvests sufficient to fill the granaries of the world; here are forests waving their invitations to woodmen, to find in them ready material for easy settlement and thereafter the source of a wide-world commerce; here are mines ready to satisfy the hungry maw of the furnaces of the Empire, to supply material for the world's fleets, and to fill with their glittering contents the vaults of many mints and banking houses; while in the rapids and rioting water-falls which the country's rugged formation has brought into existence on a thousand streams, is unlimited power, waiting but to be harnessed, to drive ten thousand factories and light the streets of our towns from Halifax to Dawson City.

Do you say these are but evidences of material wealth but they mean nothing to the Church? I protest they mean much. Not with the pride alone of a Canadian do I speak, but with the ardor of a Christian, believing in the purpose of God for our land as strongly indicated in nature as in grace.

A population of six millions scattered over this vast territory seems insignificant, but you ask me to lay aside my belief in the Eternal intelligence that is behind creation when you ask me to dream that God watered the ridges of our land so richly simply to leave them untenanted save by the

red man, the grizzly, and the buffalo. As truly as Henry Clay from a jutting crag of the Alleghanies, looking across the valley of the Ohio to where the prairies stretched as yet all desolate, heard "the thunder tread of the coming millions who are marching over the mountains to possess these prairie lands, away and away to the setting sun," so for Canada do I hear

"The tread of pioneers
Of nations yet to be;
The first low wash of waves, where soon
Shall roll a human sea."

And when I realize that already the outposts are occupied and the strategic points secured, that villages already stand where cities are to be; that thousands are scattered where millions are to congregate, I realize that for the Church in her work for Canada "now is the nick of time."

If it is true that as the foundation is laid the superstructure is to stand, that as the child is the man will be, then is it true that Canadian life and character are receiving now the stamp and impress they are to bear for generations to come, and in this aspect of Home Mission work its importance is beyond the power of words to describe.

I know that other work clamors at your doors and ours, work pressing and important, but none more important than this. Canada is to have a place among the dominant nations of the world, a large place some of us are bold enough to think, and with that in view there is room for a spiritual strategy in the toil and effort for the furtherance of the Kingdom of Christ. It is better to save the nation that is to be dominant than the nation that is dying. Happy the Church that has the strength to do both. Happy the Church, that if either must be neglected, has the wisdom to choose the more important and pressing.

Second:—Canadian Home Mission work is of supreme importance in view also of the perils incident to a heterogeneous population coming from every part of the earth.

The tide of emigration from Europe and the East to the New World has already been great. It is rapidly becoming greater. And while it is true that the Republic to the South of us must continue, for some time to come, to attract the greater number of those seeking a home in the West, those who have watched emigration statistics have noted that the tide has already set strongly toward Canadian soil.

Emigration fluctuates with the financial prosperity or depression of the country and the commercial revival which has marked the world in the last years, a revival in which Canada has enjoyed an exceptional