

days devoted to the celebration, my national predilections were never offended, unless perhaps in the case of one orator who, in no unkindly spirit, beheld, in decidedly disordered fancy, the beaver taking refuge beneath the eagle's wing.

It is not inappropriate to conclude by quoting the words of a relative, Mr. Edward Jack, now no more, who, it may be stated, proved himself a worthy descendant of a Loyalist ancestor by refusing to accept the offer of an office under the Government of the United States, peculiarly suited to his tastes, and with a tempting salary, because its acceptance involved the transfer of his allegiance.

In declining the invitation to be present at the Portland celebration, he writes: "Our fathers differed in their views as to the path of duty. They have all arrived at their common home where, for the just, everlasting peace reigns; that their descendants may for all time dwell together in unbroken harmony in the fear and favour of our Almighty Father and Protector is my earnest desire."

I. ALLEN JACK.

St. John, N.B.

The Immigration Convention.

IT is impossible to exaggerate the importance of the Northwest Immigration Convention, held in Winnipeg during the closing days of February. The two years of depression from which the commercial world has now fairly emerged forced home to the mind of every thinker a poignant truth. All classes have been and are compelled to take cognizance of the fact that Canada has reached that stage in her development where greater progress depends on greater population, and increased prosperity on increased colonization. If the fertile, vacant lands of western Canada were converted into populous communities, the cost of developing a new country, now defrayed by a few, and consequently felt as a burden, would be a mere trifle when divided among the many; the transportation companies could afford to reduce rates, and yet pay running expenses, when the volume of export trade increased; the demand for the manufactured products of eastern Canada would grow in proportion to the increased population of western Canada; and the whole Dominion would be enriched by the activity of the wealth now lying hidden and latent in the Great West, and by the incoming foreign capital resulting from augmented trade. That the colonization of western Canada should be of as great concern to the eastern as to the western provinces needs no proof.

The stream of immigration that should flow, a strong and irresistible tide, through the departments of Federal and Provincial Governments, has gradually dwindled down to an intermittent rill. To sit with folded hands awaiting the incoming flood of immigration to sweep away the stagnation of officialdom is futile. The efforts of governments, federal and provincial, of railway companies and land corporations, are not producing tangible and appreciable results. Immigration work should be direct, swift, and effective; but instead of this the agencies now in operation labour indirectly, slowly, and fruitlessly. In plain words, the Dominion's much-vaunted "spirited immigration policy" has proved a laborious failure. If the Great West is to be colonized, the futile efforts of official departments must be supplemented, electrified, and focused. An enthusiastic and determined immigration crusade must be inaugurated to remove every obstacle, to overcome every difficulty, and to break down every barrier hindering an inrush of settlers. This was the conviction that spurred and animated every class of people in western Canada to send delegates to the Immigration Convention.

THE PROCEEDINGS.

Delegates flocked to attend the convention from far and near. Representative men were sent from British Columbia and Algoma, from every important town in the Northwest Territories, and from the municipalities of Manitoba. Mr. Daly journeyed from Ottawa to be present at the convention; prominent citizens came from St. Paul; and more than one public-spirited settler gave proof of his faith in the country by travelling from remote districts on the very borderland of habitation. The proceedings of the convention were characterized by the greatest enthusiasm, but the enthusiasm was tempered with accuracy and hard-headed, shrewd common

sense. Every carefully prepared address, every paper, every extempore speech, gave the strongest evidence of unshaken faith, unbounded pride, and unlimited hope in the country. The addresses and papers may be considered as belonging to one of two classes. In one class there was set forth a truthful and exact description of the general resources in the speaker's district, and also of any attractions peculiar to such district. In the other there was an attempt, rude it may have been, to devise, to outline, and to suggest plans of regard and obtaining settlers. The former may be regarded as excellent immigration literature; the latter, as the first, a rough draft of a new colonization agency. The former gave valuable statistics and information on the actual experience of settlers, stating what had been accomplished, and what might be expected with more colonists in the country. The latter tried to solve the problem of securing the colonists. No one doubts that the Great West possesses fabulous wealth in its natural resources. Pictures of its attractions have been painted in all known shades—in the sombre black and the dull gray of disappointment, and in the glowing and roseate hues of enthusiasm. To dwell on those proceedings of the convention dealing with the country's attractions and resources is unnecessary. Like the golden age, an account of these things would be an old story. Enough to say that, of all enthusiastic speakers, the Rev. John McDougall, of Morley, N.W.T., a pioneer missionary, descended from a race of pioneer missionaries, captured oratorical laurels by his portrayal of the western land of promise. Mr. McDougall's enthusiasm may be endorsed without any discount when it is remembered that among pioneers the missionary of the vast plains is exposed to the greatest hardships without the compensation of material gain.

THE PRACTICAL WORK.

Had nothing more than the publication and distribution of immigration literature been attempted in the convention, it would have been but a wordy conclave, a transient puff underserving of the wide notice which it has attracted. The aim, however, was not to indulge in wordy embellishment of facts, but to let the facts speak for themselves; not to talk, but to do; not to paint the Great West as the land of promise, but to secure children from the old world for this land of promise. Thus the addresses and papers dealing with the practical side of colonization, though suggestive and tentative rather than clearly outlining a plan of action, were what imparted to the Immigration Convention its real and lasting worth, and what will likely be productive of actual results. As any kind of colonization scheme must have an organized and permanent agency, the delegates to the convention banded together in a permanent, working order, called the Western Canada Immigration Association. In the words of the committee appointed to organize the association, "The object of this association is to encourage suitable immigration to the districts represented in this association." It was recommended by resolutions, unanimously carried, that, in order to forward the interests of the association, "the Executive Committee be instructed to endeavour to secure grants of money from the Dominion and Local Governments, the municipalities, corporations, and companies to be benefited by the immigration work undertaken by the association"; "that the government and land corporations be requested to furnish every facility for the formation of co-operative and commercial colonies"; and "that this convention would wish to affirm its sense of the importance of the prepayment of settlers' passage money as an aid to immigration, and its desire that the permanent organization should formulate some scheme by which the principle shall be carried into operation."

These are a few of the preliminary resolutions with which the Western Canada Immigration Convention was ushered into prominence. The various addresses and the general discussion served to show how comprehensive is the work which the association has set itself to accomplish. It proposes to become an administrative immigration bureau, carrying to successful issue colonization schemes, by which multitudes in the old world, eager but unable to emigrate to Canada, are to be aided, both in transit and for the first few years of settlement. To attain this aim, grants of money will be requested from departments and corporations now engaged in immigration work, and from companies and municipalities which will be benefited by increased immigration. Mr. Greenway's suggestion, that the Dominion and Provincial Governments