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R. WILSON-SMITH, *Proprietor.*

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CANADA AS THE LAND OF PROMISE.

"Travelling lately through the Fen country of the East of England, I have collected some interesting evidence of the way in which Canada is regarded as the land of promise," writes a British correspondent to THE CHRONICLE. The Fen country has in course of time been drained and developed to such good purpose as to convert it from an unhealthy swamp into one of the most prolific and apparently prosperous agricultural districts of the home country. In the main the holdings are small—there are thousands of farms of from ten to a hundred acres growing corn and fruit and farmed by a hardworking, thrifty class with whom extravagance and laziness are unpardonable sins. These small farmers form, in short, just the type of emigrant needed for the development of the agricultural resources of such a country as Canada.

The younger generation have been moving westward for some years past and many of them, now, are able to pay visits home. They return to their homes comparatively rich men, and it is the stories which they are able to tell which set the occupants of every little farm-house throughout the Fen country talking of what might be done if they could only get to Canada. The men getting on in years wish they were younger so that they could go; the youngsters worry their parents to let them go. Our correspondent came across a young farmer in Norfolk—a mere youngster—who had married twelve months ago, taken a farm, and has been working on it "like a nigger" since, as people who knew him bore witness. He asked him if he had ever thought of going to Canada. "Yes," he said, "if this farm doesn't pay me in three years, I shall go. That's the country." And his tone showed that he meant what he said.

That young farmer is typical. It is curious to notice what are the advantages of Canada which appeal with peculiar force to these small farmers. First and foremost, comes the moderation of the

rates and taxes compared with home demands. Rates in England are a constant nightmare to these small farmers. Whatever happens, they go steadily upwards year by year, and in a year like the present when the fruit has been a financial failure and the corn is being harvested under dispiriting weather conditions, the farmer only pays them after many groans and much complaining. Secondly in the scale of advantages comes the fact that mechanical appliances are much more generally used throughout Canada in farming operations, and that there is not so much sheer heavy labour. But go to a farm where a son has been in Canada several years, and they will talk to you in the evenings by the half-hour of the things which make Canada the land of promise for the farmer.



MONTREAL DECIDES FOR BOARD OF CONTROL AND REDUCED NUMBER OF ALDERMEN.

On Monday Montreal underwent a peaceful revolution, which was none the less a revolution because of the serenity which characterized it. THE CHRONICLE has for the last fourteen years argued that the administration of civic affairs in Montreal should be transferred from the aldermen to a board of commissioners responsible to, yet to a large extent independent of the City Council. The tax-payers have now by an overwhelming majority decided to try the experiment. We say experiment because, while it may be safely assumed that the electors will never go back to the old system, the Board of Control is likely to be modified in some of its details, from time to time, as experience may suggest.

Although the Board of Control does not come into existence until next February the city will immediately feel the benefit of the change. Those members of the Council who want to get back again will be on their best behaviour. The people have spoken so plainly and with such unprecedented unanimity, that the old contempt for public opinion which some of the aldermen scarcely took the trouble to conceal may be regarded as a thing of the past. The result of the poll has united the various races which make up our population, as they were never united before. They have learned to respect each other and have confidence in each other.

An analysis of the vote is full of significance. It shows not only that in every ward the electors were practically solid for a change, but that they were so determined upon a change that they became willing to sink all minor differences to ensure a substantial majority upon the main issue. Thus, for instance, we find that in the West Ward 428 voted for the reduction of aldermen and 424 for the Board of Control, only one voting against the reduction and only three against the Board of Control. In the Centre Ward