

THE UNSETTLED LANDS.

FACTS GATHERED IN A TRIP IN THE NORTHWEST.

Mr. J. R. Parkin gives the Result of his Observations—The Destiny of the British Northwest to Feed the Millions of Britain.

Mr. J. R. Parkin's observations of the British Northwest were thus described in an interesting address delivered at the Board of Trade rooms, Winnipeg on Tuesday, 22nd ult. He said: If ever anything was clear, it is that the Northwest of Canada is likely to play a large part in national affairs. For the last few weeks I have been trying my best to get a clear idea of the present development of the Northwest and to form a fair judgment of the possibilities of its future. I have tried to weigh the advantages and disadvantages connected with settlement in this country, and to form an opinion about its capacity for food production and in other respects. All that I have seen convinces me that though the progress which has been made in the last ten years has not been so rapid as some enthusiasts hoped for, when the gates of the Northwest were opened to us, it has yet been very great, and the future before the country is immense. These

VAST PRAIRIES

have already proved their capacity to produce a large surplus of wheat, and we all know that only the merest rim of their enormous areas have yet been touched. I have seen everywhere, where new and prosperous towns are springing up along every fresh line of railway—that even in a year, not remarkable for the abundance of the crop, every elevator in these towns, and most towns have several, and are crammed with wheat—that the railways have difficulty in carrying it away fast enough—that the great railway which connects you with the east is preparing as a consequence of this to double its track to meet the increasing needs of transportation. The majority of the people of every class with whom I have met and talked, and especially those who depend on their daily toil for their living, speak in a contented way of their present condition and with hope of the future. I have observed a

NEW STREAM OF IMMIGRATION

beginning to set in towards your unoccupied lands from an unexpected quarter, composed of settlers of a most desirable kind because many are Canadians now repatriating themselves and because all bring with them the important qualification in the arts of pioneering in a new country. Their work will make it easier for those who are beginning to come in increasing numbers from the old world. Putting together all that I have seen with my own eyes, or learned on reliable authority, I am satisfied that the next few years will see an amazing change in the

POPULATION AND PRODUCTION OF THE NORTHWEST.

We want this to take place. For the consolidation of the Dominion, with her wonderful maritime position on the Atlantic, where the continent stretches furthest to Europe, and its equally wonderful maritime position on the Pacific, where the continent stretches out furthest towards Asia, we require that the great central area should be filled up with a dense population. Once more, the geographical position which the Northwest country with its vast agricultural areas holds is wonderfully impressive. At the head of the most remarkable system of inland navigation in the world, with lakes, rivers and canals stretching more than 2,500 miles to the sea, the trend of those waterways seems to suggest that the natural function of this land is to

FEED THE MILLIONS

of the old country. It is because of this increasing weight and significance of the Northwest in the affairs of the Dominion and of the Empire, and because I can see that Manitoba is the gateway to the Northwest, the key-stone province of the Dominion, and that Winnipeg is the chief centre of public opinion in this country, that I feel so deep an interest in discussing what I believe to be a fundamental national question before you, a question which involves issues which must be faced before long by British people everywhere.

ILLINOIS FALLS INTO LINE.

Evidence of an Approaching Exodus of Illinois Farmers into British Northwestern America.

J. J. Lambert, Jacksonville, Ill., U.S., has been looking over the Regina district and other parts of the British Northwest in the interests of Illinois farmers. Great numbers of agriculturists in Illinois, like those of Dakota, Washington, Maine, Michigan, etc., are dissatisfied with the gloomy prospects of agriculture in those formerly wealthy portions of the United States. Illinois, for example, which was formerly counted the richest and most fertile agricultural state in the union, is now so impoverished by mortgages on the land that scarcely seven per cent of the farms but are mortgaged to their full selling value or over. It is estimated that over seventy per cent of the farmers of Illinois have lost entire control of their property and become practically renters of the soil that formerly belonged to them.

Mr. Lambert has written his followers of what he saw in British Northwestern America. Of the Regina district he says:

"I found men who eight years ago had not five dollars to their name, now prosperous farmers, the owners of a

quarter section of good land well cultivated; cattle and horses around them and of course contented and happy.

"My conclusions are that for grain raising the Regina District in Assiniboia and East of Red Deer and south and east of Edmonton in Alberta are as good as the best. For ranching purposes the region south of the Canadian Pacific and it may be north also cannot be excelled, while for mixed farming the region north of Olds is said to be unexcelled. I took good care to talk to men who had no land to sell.

"Young people," he adds, "with a little capital to start on and who wish to avail themselves of the advantages of a new country, fertile soil, healthy climate, good markets, excellent railroads, unobjectionable neighbors, nominal taxation, they can find no better place on the continent of America than the Canadian Northwest."

On Mr. Lambert's return to Illinois he wrote a report to the above effect, which has been widely circulated, and from the letters he has received and the applications to the Canadian railways for rates for the transportation of immigrants and their effects, and other indications, it is now considered certain that next summer will see the commencement of an exodus from Illinois into British Northwestern America.

JONATHAN'S BIG DEFICIT.

25 Millions Short this year, and an Estimated Deficiency of 102 Millions in 1893.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Herald says the question of the appointment of a commission for the purpose of framing a tariff bill is being agitated. The democratic party has committed itself on the subject of tariff reform, and there is no doubt that in time a tariff bill must be framed. A commission, it is argued, could frame a bill, after mature consideration, which would be satisfactory to the great majority of the party, while it would relieve the House from the ten or twelve weeks' worry that always accompanies the framing of such a measure.

The matter of restoring public confidence is an important one, evidenced by the complicated condition of the government finances.

Just at this juncture it would seem that the present tariff has involuntarily become "a tariff for revenue only."

The estimated revenue for this year, beginning the 1st of last July, amounted to \$455,000,000. The aggregate of the appropriations to be paid was about \$507,000,000. This included about \$147,000,000 for pensions, which sum will probably be about \$35,000,000 short. A deficiency appropriation for this sum will make the aggregate appropriations for the current year \$542,000,000, or \$37,000,000 more than the current revenues as estimated, and \$75,000,000 more than the receipts under the most favorable conditions.

This includes something like \$50,000,000 for the sinking fund, which will not be paid. Even if this payment should be passed, there will be a shortage of about \$25,000,000, according to this showing.

A method known among brokers as "kiting" might temporarily overcome this shortage, but in that case the trouble would only be postponed.

The pension appropriation will have to be increased to \$182,000,000 for the next year, which sum must be provided for by the coming session, in addition to the \$35,000,000 deficiency of the present year.

A low estimate of the appropriations to be made at this session for the next fiscal year is \$557,000,000. The revenues are not likely to be increased over the estimate for the current year, \$455,000,000.

The prospect, therefore, is of a deficiency amounting to \$102,000,000 next year, to be added to that of about \$25,000,000 for this year.

The Coming Immigration Tidal Wave.

Montreal, Nov. 23.—Mr. A. W. Ross, M.P., of Winnipeg, has just completed a tour of the Northwestern States, arriving in Montreal last night. Interviewed by a reporter at the Windsor Hotel, Mr. Ross said that just before he left Winnipeg fifty families had arrived in that city, returning to Canada after some years of exile in Nebraska State.

In Chicago and other American cities Mr. Ross learned enough to satisfy himself beyond doubt that the beginning only has been seen of a tidal wave of immigration from the Western States to Manitoba and the Canadian Territories. In 1886 Mr. Ross on the floor in the House of Commons predicted that in seven years the free fertile lands of the United States would be exhausted. To-day he claims that his prediction has practically come to pass.

"Free farms for the million" could no longer be the proud boast of Cousin Jonathan. The backbone of unoccupied territory which was the basis of the boundless self-reliance of the Republic was gone forever. True, large figures swelled the books of the Land Department still; but those unclaimed thousands of acres were occupied by the Rocky Mountains or by barren deserts of alkali. But the fertile land not settled was pre-empted, was "owned."

"Therefore," said Mr. Ross, "the Canadians lost by the exodus are turning their faces homeward again. They and thousands of others will cross to our Northwest. And to accelerate this movement, our Government should lose no time to advertise their free lands."

A British Electric Girdle.

The Ottawa Board of Trade at their last meeting appointed three delegates to wait on the Dominion Government to communicate with the Imperial Government urging the appointment of a Commission on uniting all British countries by telegraph.

FROM THE PRAIRIE CITIES.

9,000,000 BUSHELS SHIPPED SO FAR OUT OF MANITOBA.

Prosperous Markets of Dakota—Interesting Items on other Subjects.

Winnipeg Nov. 20.—Great quantities of wheat are still being shipped east every day by the C. P. R. On Thursday 200 cars passed through the city, and yesterday 280 cars were sent by the all-rail route to Montreal. A gentleman in a position to know states that 9,000,000 bushels have been carried out of the country this season by the C. P. R. and N. P. R. companies.

Hunting and Trapping at 80.

Rapid City Reporter: Old Mr. Moore, who resides with his son some miles east of the town, is still hale and hearty. Nearly 80 years of age, a walk of 8 or 10 miles cuts no figure for him. In his younger days he carried the Queen's musket, serving in the 1st Royals under Capt. Main, and took part in the rebellion of 37. Now he amuses himself hunting and trapping when the weather is favorable, and reading when compelled to stay indoors, doing the latter without the aid of glasses. Last Saturday he was in town with a pack of furs on a trading expedition. Tobacco and tea are his main indulgences, and the latter must be the very best.

The Price of North-West Wheat.

Winnipeg, Nov. 19.—This ought to dispose of the talk about lower prices here than across the line in the States. A telephone message to the Hudson Bay mill this morning brought the following reply:

"For No. 1 hard we are paying 57c., No. 2 hard 52 to 54c., No. 3 hard 50 to 51c., and for No. 1 and 2 Northern about the same as we pay for Nos. 2 and 3 hard."

The Dakota prices are 48c to 52c, as reported in the market reports of the Dakota press.

Col. Haggard's Game Bag.

Col. Haggard, a brother of Rider Haggard has gone to Victoria, where he will make a short stay. He succeeded in capturing a moose and a large amount of game in his late hunt around Lakes Manitoba, Winnipeg and Winnepegosis. He thinks Winnipeg and the country have a great future ahead of them, but he is of the opinion that in the Northwest there is one more railroad needed to assure them success, and that is the Grand Trunk.

Elk in Miami.

Miami, Nov. 14.—A large amount of grain is being marketed.

Wm. Compton shipped a large elk from here on Friday, which he slaughtered west of the town.

A commotion was caused in town on Thanksgiving day by the appearance of two large elk in close quarters. Shots of no avail were fired.

Wanted—A man desirous of accumulating a fortune in a short time, possessing enterprise and some capital to construct a grist mill at this point. The advantages are unexcelled in the province.

To Mine Canadian Gold.

Winnipeg, Nov. 23.—The reports of the wonderful "finds" in the Kootenay district, British Columbia, have reached Minneapolis, and in consequence the Kootenay Prospecting and Supply Company has been organized for the purpose of developing that country and enriching its stock holders. The officers are: President, Marcus P. Hayne; vice-president and manager, E. C. Betts; treasurer, Joseph T. Manix; secretary, J. B. McArthur. Others of well known financial standing are identified with the company, and operations are to be pushed in the near future.

Houses Badly Needed.

Napinka, Nov. 20.—There is a good chance here to invest money in building houses to rent. A dozen well built and comfortable houses could be let at good rental.

Next Year's Immigration.

Montreal, Nov. 21.—The C.P.R. are making arrangements for the immigration season next year. The company expects to do a better business than has hitherto been realized. The Manitoba government are operating, both on this and the other side. There is to be an active propaganda in Europe. It is hoped the Northwest governments will work in harmony with the company, and offer such facilities as will result in Canada getting the stream of immigration which now finds its way to the States.

There is a very regrettable error in the article "Britain given a Back Seat," on the 3rd page of this issue, which makes the meaning unintelligible. "The rising of the British colonists in America," the article states, "was the signal for an outbreak of hostilities against Britain by France, Spain eager to break from British naval and colonial supremacy, also Ireland was against Great Britain." At the word France, there should be a full stop, and the sentence should proceed that Spain, eager to break down British supremacy, "declared war against Great Britain," and so on.

At a meeting called by ex-Lieut. E. A. Macdonald at Toronto on Thursday night to discuss his annexation crank, the audience consisted of eight reporters. Gen. Herpet's well planned kick not only lifted Mr. Macdonald out of the militia, but out of the ring.

THE FINANCE MINISTER'S ENGLISH TRIP.

Newspaper Straws Showing Which way the Wind is Veering—Favorable Comments.

The speeches delivered by Hon. G. E. Foster, Finance Minister of the Dominion, during his recent visit to the old country are being keenly discussed by the British press. Almost for the first time in British history the great dailies have devoted large space to reporting colonial speeches and comments upon them.

The Morning Post commenting on Mr. Foster's speeches says the Canadian Finance Minister cautiously abstained from putting a set proposal before the English people, but expressed Canada's desire to promote trade with the old country. "The time has now come," declares the Post, "for husbanding the empire's resources. If Great Britain concedes what Canada and other countries requires it will be but a short time the British confederacy becomes one of the greatest communities in the world. Absolute protection, as conceived by McKinley, would be as absurd as absolute free trade."

The Morning Advertiser says the Canadians want an Imperial Customs union. They are eager to abolish protective duties if the mother country will give them corresponding advantages. This would not be difficult. Canada might easily modify her import duties, which certainly tend to hinder trade with Great Britain. Foster is evidently a thorough believer in the practicability of commercial arrangements which will result in Canada and England adopting some standard agreement.

"The addresses of the Canadian Minister of Finance are of peculiar interest at the present time. Those who know say that Canada is one of the most solvent countries in the world. She has had no need to hanker after a humble position as an integral part of the States, for she is fully competent to work out own destiny. Annexation has not, and never will be likely to have influential support."

An Australian Visitor.

Mr. John Coates, C. E., of Melbourne, Australia, has been on a visit to Ottawa on his way out to the Pacific coast. A native of the Old Country, Mr. Coates as a young man settled in Australia and pushed his fortunes with the success that attests alike to the ability of the individual and the ample resources of his surroundings. As an engineer he is in the first rank of his profession, and as a journalist achieved more than local fame. He is to day one of the proprietors of the Melbourne Evening Herald.

Mr. Coates is an ardent Imperial Federationist, and his opinions are not so much dictated by sentiment as formed on a solid basis of conviction the result of study and research. He will visit the Pacific coast, being intensely interested in the Canadian Pacific Railway as a triumph of engineering skill.

English Electric Reading Lamps.

Public electric lamps as reported in a previous issue are used experimentally in some of the cars of the London underground railways. So successful have been the trials that 10,000 of these reading lamps are to be installed in the cars of one of the companies. The mechanism of the lamp is extremely simple, and is contained in a box 5x3 inches.

It will be remembered that upon introducing a penny into the slot at the top of the machine, and subsequently pressing the knob, an electric light is obtained which burns for about half an hour, at the end of which time it is automatically extinguished, but can be relighted by the insertion of another penny.

The light, which is about 3-c. p., is concentrated by a shaded reflector, which may be turned within certain limits so that the light may be directed to suit the position of the passenger.

One of the most remarkable features of the instrument is its honesty, as it so arranged that in case of a failure in the supply of electricity, the machine automatically returns the coin to the operator. Another noticeable feature is that, should the lock of the apparatus be tampered with, a bell is automatically set ringing in the guard's van.

It is not intended at present to displace the gas lamps in use in the cars, but to provide a separate light for passengers desiring to read. The batteries are placed beneath each of the cars, and are regularly charged at the termini of the line.

Bro. J. Critchley, Victoria, B.C., in sending a new list of subscribers for the ANGLO-SAXON says one of the members of the local legislature, who handed him the names of two subscribers, expressed his opinion that the "ANGLO-SAXON" is just the paper we "English want." Another British Columbian Englishman, in handing in a new subscription, said he preferred the ANGLO-SAXON to the paper he had been taking, and wished it success and would work for it.

First Gun of British Tariff Reform.

Hon. James Lowther, who will be chairman of the coming British Agricultural Conference, has written a letter the farmers of Kent in regard to the advocacy by the fair traders of a duty upon grain. He suggests the adoption of a sliding scale tariff that shall cease to be levied upon the necessities of life directly the home production yields a profit, and the giving of a preferential tariff to grain from the British colonies.

Hon. J. Lowther is spokesman of a powerful section in the British Conservative party who enjoy Lord Salisbury's complete confidence.

SHORT CROPS IN THE STATES.

DECREASE OF 111,000,000 BUSHELS OF WHEAT THIS YEAR.

Prices Away Down—Reasons for the Shortage Coming on—Limited Means and High Prices.

The following is not a prejudiced statement hatched in the brain of a man desirous of exaggerating the condition of affairs in the States, but is taken from the editorial columns of the New York Herald.

According to last week's published returns of the United States Department of Agriculture the present year's shortage of American cereal and cotton crops is decidedly striking.

The total wheat production of the United States this year is one hundred and eleven million seven hundred and eighty thousand bushels less than in 1891.

The total corn harvest of the United States is now at least four hundred million bushels less than that of last year, and this year's cotton crop "very light, with short staple."

The aggregate wheat and corn crops in 1892 promise to be rather smaller than they were in 1890, though the population of the United States is now thirteen millions more than in 1890.

Cotton has been selling in New York this autumn so low that it hardly pays planters for the cost of its production.

Wheat has been paying the Western and Northwestern farmers, at the best, only about sixty cents a bushel, whilst between 40c. and 50c. is the rule. And grim winter with its "blizzards" is beginning to stalk over the vast Western prairies and trans-Mississippi plains with menacing mien, carrying its "black frost" almost as far south as the gulf. How can farmers and planters get warm woolen clothing and blankets at prices within their reduced means?

Obviously the very first thing Congress should do when it meets next month is to pass its pending free wool bill and give the people a chance to provide themselves and their families against the rigors of winter.

Short Crops in Northwestern States.

To conceal the truth as to the short crops in some of the western states the big corporations have been sending glowing telegrams and cables from western points describing enormous yields of wheat throughout that section of the republic.

The gilt is rather knocked off the gingerbread by the following matter-of-fact lines in a very solicitous paragraph about the weather in the United States wheat belt in an editorial in the New York Herald of Nov. 23:

"After their remarkably short wheat crop of this year Western farmers will be very solicitous about the weather of the coming winter."

Splendid Weather in the British North West.

Cook's Creek Nov. 13.—We are having splendid weather. Farmers are busy getting their stables ready for winter housing.

THE SONS OF ENGLAND BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

BENEFICIARY DEPARTMENT. Assessment System.

The Beneficiary Board is now prepared to receive applications for increased beneficiaries. The Beneficiary is now composed of two classes, viz.: A and B.

Class A includes the present \$500 and \$1,000 Certificates.

Class B represents the increased \$1,000 Certificates.

All Beneficiary members at present in good standing will be eligible to join Class B (providing they pass a satisfactory medical examination), on payment of \$2.00, \$1.00 of which is to be paid the Local Examiner, and the other sent to the Beneficiary Board, less the Lodge Secretary's fee of 25c.

Class B contains no Total and Permanent Disability clause.

The rate of assessment in Class B is the same as in Class A, and until such time as an assessment realizes \$1,000, the heirs or locataries of a deceased member shall be entitled to receive only such an amount as shall be realized by an assessment made upon all members in good standing in Class B at the time of his death.

All old members of the Beneficiary over 50 years of age, desiring to join Class B, may do so until six months from the date of this circular, that is, November 2nd, 1892, after which time no such application can be entertained.

Members joining both Classes at the same time will pay an entrance fee of \$5.00; \$1.00 to go to the Medical Examiner, and the balance to be sent to the Beneficiary Board, less the Lodge Secretary's fee of 50c.—25c. for each certificate.

The Beneficiary Board meets on the First Wednesday of each month. The age of an applicant is made up to the day the application reaches the Supreme Grand Secretary's office; for example, if the applicant is examined by the Lodge Surgeon, say on the 10th of the month, and he would be fifty on the 22nd of the month, and it doesn't reach the Supreme Grand Secretary's office until after the 22nd, it bars him from being admitted.

The Entrance Fees must in all cases be forwarded with the application.

JOHN W. CARTER,

S. G. Secretary.

Toronto, May 4th, 1892.