

INTRODUCTION.

The development of the Canadian Pacific Railway Three Million Acre Irrigation Block, east of Calgary, cannot be measured by any known standard, for the simple reason, that this huge colonization enterprise stands absolutely alone on the Continent of America.

As a rule, when a corporation has sold a new settler a farm, its interest in the transaction immediately ceases except in so far as deferred payments are concerned. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company, being essentially neither a "water selling" nor a "land selling" concern, is, however, in an entirely different position. With the sale of the land, the company's real interest in the farm practically only commences. This Company sells its lands at a low figure and supplies water for irrigation at bare cost. It is not, by any means, actuated by philanthropic motives in so doing. The Company has undertaken the colonization and development of the Three Million Acre Irrigation Block almost solely with a view to creating the greatest possible amount of railway traffic on this area, which, it is a well known fact, is invariably the result of colonization on irrigated and part irrigated land.

The Company's handbook, describing the Irrigation Block, refers to it, on the front page, as follows:—

"The future home of the most closely settled and prosperous mixed farming, stock raising and dairying community in Western Canada."

When these conditions are actually brought about, the Company's ambition will be fulfilled. The mere sale of the land is only a means to the end—the successful settler is the end the Company is striving to attain. Under the circumstances, it will be clear that "success makers" is the class of men the Company seeks to interest. The chronic failure may go elsewhere.

The main object of this booklet is to present facts and figures bearing on "Starting a Farm," which, it is hoped, may be the means of so convincing those whose capital is limited in dollars and cents, but plentiful in those qualities (after all vastly more important), that characterise the successful home maker, that they may safely embark upon the task of carving out a home for themselves in the fertile Bow River Valley. Perchance, the effect of this booklet may also be, that some of those who shrink from the toil of rural life and the crudeness of pioneer existence, may decide that other vocations are more alluring. In either case, the real mission of this pamphlet is fulfilled.

The Company is earnestly anxious that every person who acquires land in the Irrigation Block should do so fully realizing the conditions prevailing there. Such being the case, every care has been taken to embody in this booklet nothing but verified statements, in order that the reader may have intelligent information before him upon which to form a decision as to whether or not it will be to his interest to start farming in the Bow River Valley.

To the Landless Man.

While our aim is to present information herein of value to all classes, this booklet will perhaps be more carefully read by those whose lives have been cast in cities and towns and whose experience in farming is limited. A word specially directed to the city dweller will not, therefore, be out of place.

This is an age of invention, industrialism and commercialism. The cities and manufacturing centres have proved veritable magnets, constantly drawing young men away from the farm. Invention is continually supplying machinery by means of which one man is able to do the work of many. Multitudes are thus displaced from time to time, and would be without employment were it not for the necessity of greatly increasing production to meet increasing demands. The output of American factories in recent years far exceeded that of any previous period.

Labor has thus been kept employed, but in many cases under conditions hardly less than distressing. In the evolution of a business it comes to pass that space none too liberally planned originally for the accommodation of one hundred men, is made to answer for two hundred. Life under such circumstances becomes more trying, the strain more intense, and nervous collapse more frequent.

Capital and labor are arrayed against each other more bitterly than ever. Strikes, with all their attendant evils, are becoming more frequent, until it seems as though even the privilege of working is frequently denied to honest manhood. Rents, meats, foodstuffs, clothing, and, in fact, everything entering into the cost of living, is advancing in price. Salary and wages, however, remain stationary, so that in the rushing, struggling, stifling life of the city, the average employee finds it increasingly hard to "make ends meet," and to accumulate seems impossible. The work of tradesman and clerk, mechanic and laborer, is subject to such extreme organization that the maximum wage which the ordinary man can earn, even by the exercise of the greatest fidelity and industry, is exceedingly limited. Increases in earnings are, therefore, small and more than offset by increases in expenditures. Small savings, made by dint of grinding economy, are quickly dissipated by an unlooked-for illness, loss of position, accident, or some other misfortune. Such is the condition of thousands upon thousands in the great cities.

The Contrast.

In rural life, the home is not merely a few square feet hedged in by a brick wall. The whole wide country-side, the barns, the fields, the woods, the orchards, the animals, wild and domesticated, the outlook over hill and valley—these all constitute the farmer's home. Country life has other advantages over the city. The comfortable simplicity, the air, the sunlight of the open country, all tend towards the finest