

of laborers have found a more inviting field in the large cities of the United States than in Canada. Still we have had some undesirable immigration, and there is reason to believe that our laws for keeping out this class are not as strict as they should be. The adoption by the United States of legislation such as that now proposed, would increase the necessity for some more stringent measure regarding immigration into this country.

Another danger to Canada arises from the adoption of the bill now before the House at Ottawa. The United States immigration committee reports that along the Canadian frontier, there is at present no restriction upon immigration. A great many foreigners reach the United States through Canada in the summer season, coming in via the St. Lawrence route. Under this bill, these immigrants would be prevented from passing on into the United States, and they would thus be thrown upon the Canadian public.

In Canada the labor organizations have also for some time been agitating in favor of restrictions upon immigration. The legislative committee of the Trades and Labor council has lately issued a report, declaring that there is an over supply of laborers and mechanics in the country; and that wages are being reduced. The labor committee discusses a Government immigration pamphlet, and declares that the rates of wages prevailing in Canada, are very much lower than the figures given in the pamphlet. An attempt will likely be made at the next session of Parliament to secure legislation restricting immigration into this country, and the result of any such movement will be watched with interest. We have a very "generous" system of protection in this country, and why should not Canadian labor also be protected against foreign competition?

THE FLOUR MILL.

It is surprising how little interest seems to be taken here in the proposed establishment of the large flour mill by Hastings Bros. & Co. It is admitted that Winnipeg stands in need of manufacturing industries, if she is to greatly increase her wealth and population. Ordinary lines of trade are as fully represented as the requirements of the district and country will warrant, and important additions to the business institutions of the city must be mainly in the line of manufacturing industries. Notwithstanding that this is generally acknowledged,

the milling enterprise in question is treated with a great deal of indifference, as though it were a matter of little importance whether or not the mill is located here. Messrs. Hastings and McGaw have been offered strong inducements to establish their mill at other points, and they are very likely to accept one of these offers, though they would prefer to remain here. Winnipeg cannot afford to lose such men as Messrs. Hastings & McGaw, and some effort should be made to induce them to stay here. They are not merely bonus-hunters, with a scheme to work out at the expense of the community. They are thoroughly responsible men, of good business capacity, and well known to the people of Winnipeg. Besides, they already have a considerable "stake" in the city, and have been mainly instrumental in working up a large and prosperous business here. Their ability to successfully carry out their present undertaking has therefore been tested, and their record is known to our citizens.

The proposed mill would make the largest industry in the city, with but one exception, and it is therefore worth securing. The building and plant will cost in the neighborhood of \$100,000, and the wages paid out by the firm annually will amount to about 25 per cent. of the cost of the property. This would be quite an item in the course of a year. The establishment of another large mill here would also greatly improve the prospects of the place as the wheat market for Manitoba. Minneapolis owes her greatness as the largest wheat market in the world, solely to the influence of her milling industry, which influence draws the wheat from all parts of the country, regardless of competition at other markets. The milling industry is the only manufacturing line in which at present there is really a wide field for development, in Manitoba. Other industries may be established here, but they have not the field for operation on a large scale, which is open to the flour-milling industry. If Winnipeg can be made the centre of the milling industry, for grinding the hard wheat of Manitoba, its future, as one of the largest wheat centres in the world, is abundantly assured.

It is not necessary to enlarge upon this question. Enough has been already said, from which to draw conclusions. THE COMMERCIAL has heretofore objected to the promiscuous system of bonusing irre-

sponsible parties, with various, schemes, which has prevailed so largely in the West. The arguments previously advanced against promiscuous bonusing, still hold good. Still, under the circumstances, it would seem but reasonable and fair that Hastings Bros. & Co. should be given the same privileges which have been granted to the flour mills now established in Winnipeg. All should be treated alike as nearly as possible. A money bonus has not been mentioned, and so far as is known, such has not been expected by the prospectors of the new mill, who are quite able to finance the undertaking without much aid. It is to be hoped that some arrangement may yet be arrived at which will induce Messrs. Hastings & McGaw to remain in Winnipeg.

[NOTE.—Since the above was in type, and just as this form of THE COMMERCIAL was being placed on the press, a telegram from Port Arthur arrived, stating that Hastings Bros. & Co. have concluded an arrangement for the erection of their mill at the Lake Superior town.

THE PROVENCHER ELECTION.

The election in the division of Provencher, on Thursday last, to fill the vacancy caused by the appointment of Mr. Royal to the governorship of the Territories, has resulted in the return of Mr. LaRiviere. Manitoba has almost invariably been very unfortunate in her choice of men to represent the province at Ottawa, and the return of Mr. LaRiviere cannot be looked upon as an exception to the general rule. It really does seem that it is almost impossible to induce thoroughly responsible and representative men to allow themselves to be placed in nomination for Parliament. There are plenty of men in Manitoba who would make worthy representatives of the province at Ottawa, and whose honesty and devotion to the welfare of the province is above suspicion, but such men apparently consider that it would be degrading to them to have anything to do with politics, owing to the class of men who now manipulate political matters. This is greatly to be regretted, in the interests of the province and good government. We hear a great deal of talk about purifying our politics, but when it comes to an election, the case is allowed to go by default. It seems to be the fate of Manitoba to be misrepresented at Ottawa.