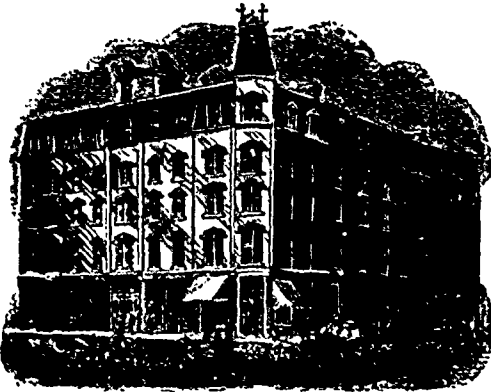


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and steamships also connect Vancouver with San Francisco and Puget Sound ports. A special Atlantic steamship service in connection with the railway is further talked of. What other undertakings may be contemplated, time alone will tell, but almost every day some new scheme is brought to light, and the public have ceased to wonder at the achievements of the company, so rapidly has one important move followed another. The valuable assistance extended by the Dominion Government has been largely instrumental in placing the company in the position it now occupies, and without which it could not have hoped to have attained such great results within a few years.

The provincial Government of Manitoba has leased a very commodious office in a handsome new building opposite the Walker House, Toronto. They intend to place in this office a permanent exhibit of Manitoba products which will be in charge of a man competent to give all the information that may be asked relative to this province. A travelling agent will also be maintained in the eastern provinces, whose business will be to lay the advantages of this country as a field for settlement before the people. This is a very practical and commendable move in the direction of obtaining settlers for Manitoba. There are always a



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certain number of good, practical farmers leaving Ontario for the newer districts of the West, where they can obtain large farms for themselves and families at a fraction of the price which they would be obliged to pay for land in Ontario. If these people can be attracted to Manitoba instead of being allowed to drift to the United States, both Eastern and Western Canada will benefit thereby. The Ontario farmer who moves to Manitoba, will still be largely supplied with goods by the eastern manufacturers, whilst his removal to the United States means the entire loss to Canada of his custom. His settlement in Manitoba will be another factor in developing this country. The people of the East should not therefore complain against the efforts of Manitoba to attract settlement hither. The Ontario farmer is just the man wanted in the West, and his wider experience gives him a decided advantage over the Old Country farmer, in commencing life on the prairie. In addition to his better knowledge of farming operations as carried on in this country, the Eastern farmer has the advantage over the Old Country farmer of being a sort of "Handy Andy." He will get along through a good deal of work alone where his Old Country brother would be obliged to call in the assistance of a mechanic. A leading mechanical journal some time ago advocated the establishment of a new trade, which should consist in training up men to do a variety of work belonging to different trades—sort of Jacks of all trades—who could under-

take odd jobs of any nature requiring some mechanical skill. The typical Ontario farmer comes very closely to filling the bill. He is almost invariably a passable carpenter, and if he has not got so far ahead in the world as to desire something pretty stylish, he will build his own house, and sometimes even manufacture furniture for use therein. The writer was shown through a large farm house, every room of which was nicely furnished with suites of home-made furniture, made during the winter season by the farmer and his sons from the native woods that grew on the farm. None of the persons had any instruction in cabinet work other than that picked up on the farm, yet to all appearance the furniture looked as good as factory work of a similar nature. The work was entirely done by the farmer and his family, with the exception of the sawing of the logs into lumber. The furniture was principally maple, beech and walnut, finished in oil or varnish. This farmer did all repairs in the nature of wood work, upon wagons, implements, etc., at home. This of course is an exceptional case, but it will serve to show how handy the Eastern farmer is with tools. This ability to turn his hand to a great variety of work, specially adapts the Eastern farmer to pioneer life in the West, and if his purse is rather low, he will be able to get along comfortably, at a minimum expenditure, by taking hold and doing himself many little jobs about a farm which the Old Country settler could not attempt without assistance.