

BUILDING A NATION IN THE WEST

FORECAST OF WHAT THE FUTURE HAS IN STORE FOR CANADA.

In summing up the impressions derived from a tour of observation, during which all the centers into which immigrants are coming in large numbers were visited, it is difficult to so moderate the language used that the incredulity of the reader in Eastern Canada will not be aroused, says the concluding letter of a brilliant series written from Winnipeg by Stewart Lyon, special correspondent of the Toronto Globe. There has been so much boom talk in the west in former years without a substantial basis of fact that the skepticism of the east is perhaps not far from the mark. After one sees the new farm houses that in hundreds dot what were but two years ago uninhabited wastes, examines the records in the Government land offices, and watches the tide of European immigration that flows through Winnipeg, and the still greater volume on the Soo line from the United States, there is no longer room for skepticism, and even the most doubting Thomas must be satisfied that Western Canada has at last aroused the world's attention.

What will be the result? It is always the mountaintop in the distance that first attracts the eye in a wide-spread landscape. He would be a dull man, indeed, who, seeing what a century of immigration has done for the United States, did not dream of the Canada of the future, and its place among the nations, when these vast untended spaces of the west become thickly peopled. A century in the history of nations is but as a year in the life of a man. There will be between three and four hundred million people in North America at the close of the twentieth century, and Canada, small as her population is now, and humble as her place is in the sisterhood of nations, will then be one of the world's great powers, mistress, by virtue of her occupation almost exclusively of half the continent and fifty millions of people.

WHY PROGRESS WAS SLOW.

The pessimists are not all dead yet, and some of them may remind me that it is almost twenty years since the opening up of the west by the C. P. R., and that in all the territory between Lake Superior and the Pacific there were less than six hundred thousand people when the census was taken a year ago. They may go further, and demonstrate by mathematics, as it is quite possible to do, that only half a section of land per family the Canadian west would be comfortably filled by ten million people. They may also point out that in the west there are vast stretches of land that by reason of insufficient rainfall are not adapted to cultivation, and must be excluded from the available area. That is precisely where the settlement of the west by mathematics breaks down, and where the man of imagination comes to his own. Take the semi-arid regions for example. The mathematician of a pessimistic turn says we must count them out, so he draws a ring round them and marks the enclosure "no use." The other, who sees the promise of the future, will mark all of America's soil valuable, wonders if it would not be worth while turning the waters of the swift-flowing Rocky Mountain streams upon these parched lands. In far less time than a half century there will be scarcely an acre of good land in the southern regions of Alberta and Assiniboia beyond the reach of an irrigation ditch, and by reason of that very fact these tracts so generally regarded as "no use" will be the most thickly populated in the west.

A VAST IRRIGATION PROJECT.

The great irrigation project upon which the C. P. R. chiefs are now engaged may be cited in support of this statement. By means of 115 miles of canal, the storage of billions of gallons of water in reservoirs formed out of natural depressions, and the diversion of the water of the Bow River, near Calgary, a great stretch of territory, extending from Calgary easterly almost 200 miles, to Medicine Hat, can be irrigated. There are over two million acres in the irrigable belt, and of these half a million now desert can be devoted to wheat-growing, with the absolute assurance of a crop every year. Similar lands in Montana yield 25.3 bushels of wheat annually as an average, while Manitoba's average is 17, Minnesota's 14, and North Dakota's 12.07 bushels without irrigation. Out of that southern Alberta "arid" land there can be taken, if we include the Lethbridge and other ditches, 25,000,000 bushels of wheat and half a million cattle every year. The C. P. R. reports indicate that 250,000 cattle could be easily pastured under irrigation where only 50,000 are now kept. The market for the cereals of the eastern slope of the Rockies will be found on the Pacific. China is awakening, and she and Japan will be great consumers in many years past. The supply of food for the masses of China has long been a serious problem, and the Government of China strictly enforces the prohibition of the export of rice. The productive limit of central and southern China has been reached, the system of culture being adapted to the growth of the largest possible yield that unceasing labor can secure. The seaboard provinces of China will some day awake to industrial and manufacturing activity, as Japan has done, and Canadian wheat and flour will find a market there, in competition with the cereals of Washington, Oregon, and California. To compete effectively, that wheat must be grown near the Pacific, and on the irrigated slope of Alberta and Assiniboia it will be produced. So confident are the Canadian Pacific people of the future of the waste lands under irrigation that they are willing to take all the area that can be reached by the Bow River waters as part of their land grant. They own the alternate sections already, and if the Government withdraws the others from settlement they will take them as part of their grant, and begin work on the canal.

This project has been presented at some length, as showing how even land now held to be useless will be utilized in the coming years, and how men of affairs are looking to the Pacific and the future of Canadian trade in the countries bordering upon it. So far as the present rush of settlement is concerned, however, the Pacific coast outlet is not a pressing matter.

NEW ELEMENTS OF PROGRESS.

There will be from this time forward three elements in the rapid settlement

of the Canadian west heretofore absent:

1. American capitalists seeking an outlet for surplus funds formerly used in land operations at home have invested very largely in Canadian lands, and will advertise them all over the Union.
2. The American pioneers and frontiersmen, who have led the movement of settlement in their own country, from Iowa to Minnesota to the Dakotas, have reached the limit of the good land in their own territory, and are coming into Canada in thousands. The reports they are sending back will for many years to come result in increasing immigration from the United States, for the land they are settling upon is admittedly better than that of any of the States west of Iowa.
3. The rush of European immigration into the United States, which was begun when there were vast tracts of free land there, still continues, and cannot be stopped speedily. Many years must elapse before it becomes generally known to European agriculturists emigrating to America that there is no longer room in the Western States of large part of these belated land-seekers will cross the border into Canada and find homes with us.

IMMIGRATION WILL GREATLY INCREASE.

Of the economic effect of this movement and its result upon the national life I have written at some length in former letters. The volume of immigration will steadily increase for a long time. Mr. Obed Smith, Commissioner of Immigration, estimates that the number of immigrants during the present calendar year will be from 70,000 to 75,000. This number will unquestionably increase from year to year until it may reach a maximum of 250,000. It is as certain as tomorrow's sunrise that there will be in the west from a million and a quarter to a million and a half people when the census is taken in 1911, where there were but 600,000 a year ago. They will afford an ever-increasing market for the products of eastern Canadian factories, which by a persistent fight at the outset and the adaptation of their goods to prairie needs can secure the market almost exclusively, except in a few special lines of agricultural implements that American inventiveness have evolved especially for tilling the soil on the plains. The manufacture even of these, however, is likely to drift across the border to our own side. The chief American implement makers, finding a steady and constantly enlarging demand, will inevitably establish branch factories in eastern Canada, and at points such as Sault Ste. Marie, Port William, and Port Arthur, in New Ontario, where special facilities for manufacturing are to be had.

The effect upon population growth in eastern Canada of the peopling of the plains is somewhat difficult to estimate in figures. Looking broadly, however, at similar conditions in the United States, we may safely say that for every million settled on the plains there will be need for a quarter of a million in the manufacturing centers of the east. Toronto and Montreal will become, even more than they are at present, centers for the financing of great projects for opening up the west, and there will be legitimate employment in loan company business for a very large amount of eastern capital.

INTELLECTUAL AND MORAL OUTLOOK.

A closing word as to the outlook in the national sphere and in the matter of intellectual and moral development. One hears frequently in the east that there is danger of the west becoming Americanized by the very great influx of settlers from the United States. The men who today are engaged in the making of the west have no such fear, so long as the people of the older regions, and especially of Ontario, do their duty in bringing Canadian ideals within reach of the newcomers, and in providing them with educational facilities and the ordinances of religion. Rev. Dr. Robertson, the great home missionary head of the Presbyterian Church, whose tenacity of purpose has been a sore blow to the west, had no fear of the future of the country so long as the school, the church, and the mounted policeman, with his firm insistence upon British law and order, accompanied the new settlers wherever they might go. It is a national duty, which all churches in Canada should fulfill with their utmost energy, to provide church services for the newcomers. The Government of Ottawa should spare neither money nor effort to reinforce the efforts of Premier Haultain to provide that every child coming into these lands shall learn the history of Canada and speak the English tongue.

The suggestion made from time to time to reduce the Mounted Police and leave the maintenance of order in the unorganized portions of the territories to the local authorities, should be disregarded. The mounted policeman is the settler's best friend, and a visible symbol of Canadian authority. He is doing a work that could not be done by any locally constituted force, no matter how well organized. With these three factors, the church, the school, and the policeman, working unitedly for the development of Canadian national sentiment there need be no fear of foreign ideals, political, educational or religious, taking root in the west. In the material condition of the people there will be nothing to breed discontent. The soil is more fertile, taxation less heavy, the duties of citizenship lighter than in the lands from which they have come. In all the west no man need suffer hunger or go shelterless who is willing to work. Unconsciously the settlers from other countries will cast away the habits bred of former conditions and become no less enthusiastic Canadians than their brethren in the east.

Heretofore there has been one great cause of dissatisfaction, the undue cost of transportation and the distance of many parts of the settled country from railways. The rapid filling up of the territories, as we have seen, has resulted in the development of great railway building plans that are now being carried out, and the settlers will soon be so numerous as to command the attention of Parliament and force the passage of laws establishing a railway commission and other machinery for the equalization of rates.

WILL DEVELOP ITS OWN TYPE.

The direction of the intellectual and moral development of the west is perhaps more difficult to forecast than its material future. For the moment men are too much concerned in laying the foundations of empire to think much of literature, the arts and the sciences. There is, however, among the population of the plains a remarkably large percentage of people to whom the term cultured can properly be applied. In

the early days of ranching, many English university men of good family and of scholarly attainments were among the settlers, and their influence has unquestionably been great in the social and intellectual life of the territories. That the Canadian west will develop its own type in prose-writing, and verse, and choose its own outlook on life, to be expected, and symptoms are not wanting of the beginning of this process of differentiation from eastern standards. In morals our west will undoubtedly compare most favorably with eastern Canada. There is something that makes for sober living and deep thinking on those illimitable plains where the star-jeweled sky forms an unbroken canopy in the still night. The man of a reflective disposition is forced back upon himself and develops a contemplative type of mind that is very rarely met with among the bustle and hurry of eastern cities or even of Ontario town life. The thinking man is seldom an immoral man, and one can well believe that on these plains there will be evolved a type of Canadians who "fear God and none else besides," who will be tender to the weak, unbending to the strong, who will do justly, love mercy, and make of the great northern home for millions of the unfortunate, the distressed and the submerged of other lands.

RELICS OF DEAD LITERARY MEN

Something About the Market for Them and Prices Quoted.

Sums Now Paid for Their Manuscripts Would Have Meant Affluence for Them.

Although in some particular instances prices have ruled high, as a general rule the relic which one would naturally expect, in the case of an author, to be the most eagerly sought after by his admirers—namely, his pen—commands but a modest figure, as witness Sir Walter Scott's pen, which was sold at the Dalhousie sale a couple of years ago for 8½ guineas, or about two-ninths of the sum paid a year last March for the Wizard of the North's walking stick, a stout ash-plant culled from the woods of Abbotsford, but twice as much as a lock of the novelist's hair inclosed in a morocco case.

The silver taper stand which Sir Walter Scott bought with his first fee as an advocate—25 5s—and gave to his mother, which realized £72 the other day, had one advantage over a Dickens relic that was sold in December, 1899; it was decidedly less cumbersome. The relic in question was originally one of the stone balustrades of old Rochester bridge, and was afterwards converted by "Boz" into a sun dial. When, on the death of the author, the dial came into the possession of Mr. J. H. Wright, of Rochester, it was sold for £100. These relics of Gadshill Place and old Rochester bridge are placed here in sincere regard for Charles Dickens's relic, the souvenir of the author's death was eventually knocked down for £20 10s.

Keats's manuscripts were sold rather over three years ago for £686 and 80s, respectively. The former sum was given for the manuscript of "Endymion," which averaged out at £3 10s 9d per page; while the "Lamia" was written on leaves that were afterwards used by the very great number of ten-penny Bank of England notes, for the manuscript fetched £11 14s 1d for each of its 26 pages. Manuscripts written by Burns command high prices, a few very fine ones of today could afford to refuse for the production of original work; "Scots, wha hae!" for instance, sold in May, 1890, for £70, and three years ago last June the same relic was sold for £100, a sum equal to £9 12s per page, or probably over a shilling a word—a rate which most authors would find very acceptable.

Manuscript collectors who aspire to possess Scott manuscripts must at the same time be prepared to dip somewhat deeply into their pockets. Certainly £62,000 was paid for a manuscript of "The Lady of the Lake," which was in his own handwriting some little time ago; but £106 was required for a portion only of "Tales of a Grandfather"—a sum which was only paid for the manuscript of "The Lady of the Lake," which was used by Shakespeare. For the manuscript of "Old Mortality," which was sold on the last occasion for £33, £600 was given recently. What will be the price of a manuscript of "The Poems of Two Brothers" to a Louth bookseller for £25; the right of the manuscript was sold by auction years afterwards for £430.

Expensive Cigars.

One reads from time to time of the fabulous sums paid for cigars, says the London Tatler. A favorite story is that Mr. Chamberlain never touches anything cheaper than a five-shilling cigar, and that every time Lord Rothschild smokes ten shillings worth into the ambient air. According to Mr. Weingott, the well-known tobacco merchant, all such stories are the purest invention. As far as the quality of tobacco goes, the best cigar in the world can be purchased for one shilling sixpence, and anyone who gives more than this sum is paying for size, peculiar shape, or for some peculiar brand which is only valuable for its rarity and not for its excellence. These torpedo-like cigars which one sees in tobaccoists' windows incased in glass sheaths are mainly traps to catch the unwary. The most remarkable thing about them is their size and their startling variation in price according to the locality in which they are sold. In the west end they are priced at anything between £1, 1s., and 15s.; in the less glided precincts of the city they are sold for 7s. 6d. apiece.

Machine Lays Tracks.

A new machine for laying railroad tracks is being used in Pennsylvania. It has proved itself capable, with a crew of forty men, of putting down two miles of track in a day. The tracklayer has a huge crane, sixty feet long, which projects forward over the road, and it hauls behind it a train of sixteen flat cars loaded with ties and rails. A continuous double line of the latter moves forward over rollers and carries the ties with it. Both rails and ties are seized at the proper point by the machinery and placed on the road in front of the train, where they shortly form part of the track over which the train passes. This device is said to be the most rapid and the most economical mechanical tracklayer invented.

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CONFIDENCE IN THEIR LOVE

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Instances When Heroic Measures Were Necessary, But Difficulties Were Downed.

The fact that confidence is the essence of real live affairs is shown by the rash measures to which lovers resort in outwitting parents who for some reason or other or for no reason at all set up objections to a matrimonial match. There is no obstacle too perplexing, no grievance too great for lovers to surmount, and their dealings throughout show that whatever else may be said of them they have explicit confidence in each other. A young girl, afraid of her own shadow in the dark under ordinary circumstances, will steal out through a second story window at midnight and execute a hasty retreat over a high back yard fence in order to carry out her part of a prearranged elopement. She will start out with her lover with little money and practically no prospects for the sole reason that she loves him and believes everything will come out all right in the end. And in practically every case of this character her one assurance is confidence. Frequent long distance marriages take place in which the bride and groom are unacquainted with each other, and it is this confidence that brings about such weddings, then what is it?

A case of this character recently occurred in Hopkinsville, Ky., when Mrs. Gertrude Koon and Jefferson Davis were married by telephone while they were 300 miles apart. The bride did not meet her husband until the day following the wedding, and after having spent twelve hours together they both declared they felt as though they had been acquainted all their lives. Their courtship was carried on by mail and their engagement was brought about in the same manner, so that throughout the whole transaction the only guarantee of each was confidence.

ELOPED AT MIDNIGHT.

Eloppments of the highly romantic sort usually take place at night, and a striking illustration of this sort is to be found in the case of Ben Pickrell and Miss Ollie Fenwick, of Raywick, Kentucky. They eloped, quite recently, shortly before midnight. The young woman, with a small bundle of wearing apparel under her arm, climbed through a window, joined her sweetheart, who was waiting on the outside, and together they drove to Lebanon, where at 2 o'clock in the morning they were united in marriage. Pickrell had a rival for the hand of Miss Fenwick, and on that particular evening, after a late call, he gathered her consent to take him for better or worse. This much of the bargain completed, he decided to take no chances, and to have the knot tied as soon as possible. He procured a horse, drove about for some little time before he secured a license, and then, after the legal document had been made out, met the young woman

and drove hastily to Lebanon in the early hours of the morning. Winifred Lance, a high school girl of Fostoria, Ohio, was even more confident, and determined than the Kentucky young woman. She was in love with Clyde Hall, a schoolboy, and as is usually the case in such love affairs, her parents offered serious objections, and excluded the young man from their home. But this was only a small obstacle. One night the girl threw her clothes from her bedroom window to Hall, who was waiting on the outside. The next morning she left home, apparently for school. But instead she went to the house of Hall's parents, where the two were married.

SURPRISE WEDDING FOR PARENTS.

Two young people of Quincy, Ill., had so much confidence in themselves and their ability to engineer a matrimonial affair without parental aid that they arranged the wedding to take place at the home of the bride, and did not inform her parents that they were to take place until the hour before the time set for the ceremony. The groom's parents knew nothing of the marriage until after the event had taken place, and the young couple broke in upon them with a startling announcement that they had come for the usual blessing. The groom is Carlton Herrington, while his bride was Miss Ella M. Waller.

A reversal of the claim that it is usually the bride who possesses supreme confidence in her lover is found in the case of Mrs. Lulu Underwood in her cell, and finally it was arranged in the county jail at Birmingham, Alabama. Mrs. Underwood had been sentenced to jail for using abusive language. Morgan visited her every day, and she recognized him, and the happy couple went away to begin life anew.

KIDNAPPED BOY TO MARRY.

Miss Agnes Vance, of Barren county, Ky., was so confident and so courageous in her quest for a husband that she kidnapped Robert Marcum, her youthful sweetheart, and took him to Galatin, Texas, where, after some delay, caused by legal technicalities, she finally succeeded in making him her husband.

"This young man, and I," she said to the license clerk, "desire to get married, and I want a marriage license." "Are you of age?" asked the clerk. "I am," she replied, with a twinkle in his eye.

To which the maiden replied: "I am of legal age with some margin, but the young man here with me is yet a boy, and this is why we had to run away from Kentucky. His parents opposed the marriage between us, and some women's wiles, and the happy but I didn't. I just took the 'bull by the horns,' went to the young man's home the other night, and while his parents slept, stole him out from under his own vine and fig tree, and here I am, ready and willing to become his wife."

AND WITH THAT SHE PAID THE FEE, TOOK THE PAPERS, AND MARCHED OFF TO GET MARRIED.

HONEYMOON ON DEATHBED. Adolph Shoemate, of Louisville, Ky., is spending his honeymoon upon his deathbed, but this fact did not prevent him from marrying Miss Mamie Monteneer.

Two months ago Shoemate suffered a stroke of paralysis. His condition, while serious, was not thought to be critical. His sweetheart became his nurse, and she watched by his side night and day. One Sunday he was worse, and at intervals he was unconscious. Miss Monteneer watched by his bedside all night, and as the clock struck 12 she remembered that it was her wedding day and wondered if the unconscious man at her side would remember. The day was a miserable one for her. Shoemate was unconscious and the few people about thought that he was dying. About 9 o'clock that evening he opened his eyes and saw his sweetheart at his side. The watchers saw that consciousness had returned.

"What day is it?" he inquired.

"Monday," answered some one.

"Our wedding day," said the sick man, in a feeble voice.

"Let's be married," he said a moment later.

The next minute he again asked the girl at his side to marry him. She

consented and it was decided to have the ceremony performed that night. It was 11 o'clock when the license was secured. A clergyman was then telephoned for. He did not hesitate an instant, and it was just a few minutes after midnight when he arrived.

The bridegroom was lying upon a cot. There were not more than four or five witnesses, and two of them held him in a sitting position. The bride and bridegroom then joined hands and the minister pronounced a short marriage service. It required only a minute or two, and the bridegroom then sank back upon the cot.

Courtship Sundays in Holland.

Holland is a place where primitive customs abound. Traditions are sacredly handed down and observed, and this veneration for ancient things has kept alive in the country what are known as courting Sundays. Throughout Holland the four Sundays of November are kept as fete days. They are named severally Review, Decision, Purchase and Possession Sundays. On Review Sunday everyone goes to church, and after service there is a church parade, when all the young men and maidens look at each other, but forbear speaking. On Decision Sunday each would-be benedict approaches the maiden of his choice, with a ceremonious bow, and from her response judges whether he is acceptable as a suitor or not. On Purchase Sunday the consent of parents and guardians is sought, if the wooing during the week has been happy. Possession Sunday witnesses the first appearance of the various lovers before the world as actual or prospective brides and bridegrooms.

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