

The West

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1910.

CANADA'S IMMIGRATION

The growth in population of Canada since 1901 has been a source of gratification to Canadians and has had a marked effect in placing our country in its proper position among the nations.

The cause of this exodus to Canada can only be understood by a study of conditions existing in this country for the past fifty years and by the conditions existing in other countries that were competitors for the people of Europe, who were anxious to participate in the probable wealth of the undeveloped regions.

The United States was the first field to be developed by European emigration. Political considerations played an important part in directing the exodus to that country. The Irish, whose antipathy to English rule was of the bitterest during the nineteenth century, flocked in millions to the supposed paradise of liberty, fraternity and equality and shunned Canada as being under the domination of the United States. Political disturbances in Germany, Austria and Poland drove millions to a country where their ideal form of government prevailed. No physical difficulties prevented the spread of population from the wooded Eastern States to the broad prairies and the lordly Mississippi furnished a great artery for commerce midway through that great country before the building of railways. The gold excitement in California in the fifties led thousands to cross the continent, making known the resources and fertility of the Western States. A congenial climate, a popular form of government, the oppressed of Europe, easy means of transportation and a continuous area of fertile land from the Atlantic to the Rockies combined to attract and hold the millions of Europe anxious to better their condition in some new land, where caste and tradition would not hamper their efforts.

Up to 1867 there was practically no Canada but a number of weak struggling colonies that were unimportant and unable to do anything to secure any considerable portion of the European emigration. There was no West; the Hudson's Bay Company controlled the vast prairies and was jealous of the invasion of any settlers and British Columbia was a separate colony farther away from Eastern Canada in the matter of communication than Central Africa today. The supposed rigorous climate frightened intending immigrants and a great French population at the place of disembarkation repelled the English settler. Even the natural growth of population was reduced by the exodus to the United States. From Ontario the young men in thousands were attracted by the superior opportunities in the great American trade centres. Even our own Ontario farmers could not resist the lure of the prairie and migrated in thousands to Kansas, Nebraska and the Dakotas. This continued long after Confederation and until conditions forced the exodus to turn toward the Canada prairie.

The union of the provinces in 1867 and the bringing into confederation of British Columbia and the North-West was the first step in the making of the Canadian nation. The building of the Canadian Pacific Railway was the most important step since confederation in the development of Canada. The C. P. R. was constructed in 1885 and gave the first all Canadian line of communication between Eastern Canada and our western country. By that time, the tide of immigration was flowing in well developed channels to the United States and to divert it was almost an impossibility. Little Canadians, who were then in control of the Liberal party furnished sufficient arguments to American immigration authorities to injure Canada, and prevent people from developing our prairies. Their speeches teemed with misrepresentation of Canada and its conditions. They pictured Canada as an inhospitable area and verging on ruin.

The greatest factor in securing immigration is cheap, fertile land. In 1901, the wheat area of the United States was almost exhausted. The continuous immigration had covered the prairies of Minnesota and the Dakotas. The American farmer was growing his crops immediately south of the imaginary line and could reap little difference between the dear land around him and the free land one hundred feet north of him. The filling up of the prairie in the Western States created a high price for land and a land hunger peculiar to the American farmer. The Iowa, Illinois and Indiana farmer was selling his \$150 an acre land and moving north into Min-

nesota and the Dakotas buying six times as much for his money in those States. The settler he supplanted had to secure more land and as he was a wheat farmer he looked for some place to continue his work. The United States furnished no outlet for his energies in this direction and the time was ripe for the peopling of the Canadian prairie. The "American Invasion of Canada was the direct effect of the filling up of the prairie in the Western States and the consequent rapid increase in the value of land.

A peculiar condition about this time in Canada greatly assisted the movement. About 1901 there was issued in Western Canada half-breed scrip calling for nearly two million acres of land. This was mostly secured by speculators, who strained every nerve and made every sacrifice to secure this cheap scrip. Money was borrowed and desperate chances taken to acquire as much as possible of this. Then the speculator was faced with the proposition to get rid of this. The borrowed money had to be returned. They saw that our immigration must come from the United States and they immediately began a campaign that resulted in interesting wealthy American real estate men, bankers and others in our cheap fertile lands. They in turn were in a position to interest the American farmer and assure him of the glorious opportunity that awaited him north of the boundary. If the half-breed scrip did not benefit the original possessor it at least played an important part in hastening the coming of the American farmer.

The immigration from the United States advertised Canada and materially assisted in producing a like influx from Great Britain. Fear of the effect of such a large American population in Canada no doubt caused the British statesmen to look favorably upon the Canadian attempts to secure immigrants from Britain. The tide has turned and Canada will continue to receive more other portion of the world offers greater inducements. For the government to claim credit for the rush to Canada is ridiculous. We have never met a settler from the United States brought here by the government's efforts. The immigration was due to the conditions mentioned and was bound to come.

If the Government was responsible for the rapid growth in Canada's population, then Sir Wilfrid and his adherents must have been assisting Argentina in a similar way, for we find that the far-away Spanish-American republic has beaten us at the same game. During the past five years, Argentina has added to its population by immigration 1,417,265, while Canada has got 943,510. Both are great grain producing countries and in a similar stage of development. The difference in conditions for securing immigration favored Canada. Argentina had to draw its population from Europe and people had to travel a tremendous distance. Alongside Canada was a nation of eighty million people, educated pioneers and anxious for cheap land. The United States people were not going to a foreign land but a country with like language laws and institutions.

Argentina had to induce people to settle in a country, where everything was foreign. Yet considering this disadvantage they beat us by fifty per cent. If the Liberals claim credit for Canada's increase in immigration, are we not justified in censuring them for not equal to a country worked under more adverse conditions? Canada with its possible settlers at its door could not equal Argentina that had to bring them seven thousand miles. We have a greater and better country than Argentina. Our laws, language and institutions appeal more strongly to the intending settler and our failure to cope with that country is a matter for the serious consideration of those paid government enthusiasts who have been boasting of our progress under Sir Wilfrid's graft regime.

SCOTT'S ELECTION PROMISE

Premier Scott has set many difficult tasks for the Leader, and, not the least of these, is the attempt to apologise for his scandalous violation of his pledge in the spring session of 1908 that there would be another session before a general election. Scott made this promise not only to the legislature but to his associates in the Liberal caucus. No one knows this better than Scott's political mouthpiece, the Leader, and any argument they use must be based upon the Premier's word, which is no argument at all. Practice produces results and Scott's violation of his promises has become such a fixed habit that the public have become accustomed to it and many lenient friends look upon it as a disease not a vice.

Scott did promise that there would be another session of the first legislature in the spring of 1908. On the second reading of the redistribution act, he stated that it was introduced that session to give the people time to get acquainted with the radical changes in the boundaries. This was

accepted by the Opposition and was a reasonable and fair stand for the premier to take. The membership of the House had been increased from twenty-five to forty-one and outside of Moose Jaw, Prince Albert and Regina the constituencies bore no resemblance to the old districts. Time for organization and selection of candidates in these new constituencies was required and the premier promised it and his word was accepted.

But that was not the only occasion on which Premier Scott made this promise. When he was withdrawing the municipal bill, he also stated that there would be another session of that legislature.

An election act was introduced that session, and when discussing the clauses of that act under which elections were to be introduced, he stated that there would be no election before another session but gave as his reason for introducing these clauses the fact that Neely, Brown and Champagne were going to resign their seats to contest federal constituencies in the coming elections. Here we have three occasions on which Premier Scott made this pledge, (1) during the introduction of the redistribution bill, (2) when the municipal act was being withdrawn and (3) when the election act was being discussed. If any further proof is necessary, it may be found in the action of the then member for Kinstino, F. Sanderson, who, when the election was announced made the following statement: "I am denouncing Scott for bringing on an election after promising the Liberal caucus that there would be another session. After the Liberal caucus and members of the government party told the Opposition that there would be another session. Scott, as is his habit, did promise and did violate his promise that there would be another election. Scott is not the only one to blame. The members of the Opposition, knowing the member, should not have accepted his promise. The premier's career of treachery and deceit should have taught the Opposition that the redemption of his pledges is a trivial matter with Premier Scott. A product of the school of Laurierism, he feels himself justified in using any subterfuge, no matter how low or contemptible, to outwit his opponents."

A LIBERAL NO LONGER

The Welland Telegraph mentions the case of a young man who two years ago made Canada his adopted country, and Welland his adopted home. He came to this country to fill an important post. He was a reader, a thinker, a student of affairs. Being young, radical in his views, and unversed in Canadian conditions, the label "Liberal" worn by one of the political parties attracted him. There is something in the very word of generous and sanguine temperament. He joined the local Liberal association.

But the poor chap was doomed to disappointment and disillusion. He soon found that "Liberal" as applied to the office-holders at Ottawa was a misnomer. In the words of The Telegraph, this new Canadian citizen soon found that Canadian Liberalism has been shorn of its robes, that the very flesh had been eaten away, and that there now remains, but a naked skeleton to which the Regina party once stood for.

Disgusted with the party's abuse of power, and with its application of principle, this young Canadian in the making at last withdrew his name from the local party organization and cancelled his connection with Canadian Liberalism. Thousands of young Liberals all over the country must be dissatisfied with the reactionary tendencies and hopeless Toryism of the present regime at Ottawa.

Sir Wilfrid Lost His Low Tariff Policy

Sir Wilfrid lost his low tariff policy on the way East. Jim Conmee probably touched him at Port Arthur.

E. M. Macdonald says that the Tories are the only shouters for free trade in the West. Macdonald has properly gauged the situation.

Sir Wilfrid's Lieutenant, on his Western tour, E. M. Macdonald, is now assuring the eastern people that the tariff won't be disturbed.

The reappointment of G. H. V. Buley for a second term as governor of Alberta will be applauded by the people of Saskatchewan. It will free this province for another five years from the most despicable politician that ever cursed a community. What is Alberta's loss is Saskatchewan's gain.

WILL BE BROWN

Premier Scott's Visit to Ottawa Causes Discussion of Possibilities

Ottawa, Sept. 23.—Hon. Walter Scott today attended a meeting to consider the question of legislation to prevent accidents from explosives and later had an interview with Sir Wilfrid Laurier. He left for Toronto tonight, but will be back in Ottawa on Monday.

His presence has revived interest in the appointment of a new Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan, and it is stated that the post will in all probability go to A. G. Brown, of Regina.

WESTERN CONSERVATIVES ARE THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY

Canada's Great Journalist, J. S. Willison, Reviews Political Situation on the Prairie—Conservatives Stand for Lower Duties, Government Ownership of Hudson's Bay Railroad—Provincial Rights and Government Ownership of Terminal and Internal Elevators

Vancouver, Sept. 15.—In the Western Provinces the issues are shaping very clearly for the next general election. British Columbia, in some of its chief problems, has no close identification with the Prairie communities, but Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta have a common political language, and common social and political interests. Names have ceased to have any meaning in Canadian politics, and nothing could demonstrate this more clearly than that the opponents of the Laurier Administration in these Provinces should be called Conservatives. As a matter of fact they are Progressives, as Mr. Borden himself is a Progressive, and it is not certain that the old name has any potency with the American and European element who have no natural sympathy with historical Toryism. But that as it may, there is nothing of Toryism in the ideas of Western Conservatives as there are all the signs of a revolt in these Provinces against the reactionary temper of official Liberalism.

Four Chief Questions There will be at least four main planks in the platform of Western Progressives at the next election. They will demand a heavy reduction in the duties on farm machinery. They will pledge themselves to public ownership and operation of the terminal elevators. They will advocate the construction and control of the Hudson Bay railway by the Government. They will continue to demand restoration of the public lands to the Province. Western Conservatives are united in favor of lower duties on farm machinery. They will insist upon action by the government or upon declaration of its intention so definite that it cannot be evaded or misunderstood. They do not believe that agricultural machinery should be dearer in the Western Canadian Provinces than in the adjoining states. They are not convinced that with the long water haul to Fort William freight charges are against the manufacturers of Ontario. They suspect that if this were the case, American manufacturers would not establish branch factories in Canada. They suspect a certain understanding between Canadian and American manufacturers. They suspect that the prices of American machines are enhanced by a doubtful system of classification. There is a deep seated feeling that some of the most powerful of these interests give a continuous and aggressive support to the Government and that many of their western agents are offensively active in elections. Moreover it is admitted that Canadian made machines are at least as good as those produced in the United States, as popular with Western farmers, and equal to holding the market against any competition.

The Public Lands Saskatchewan begins to be restless under the financial provisions of its constitution. It has been necessary to restrict the Provincial expenditures in various directions. The Federal subsidy is inadequate to the needs of a fast growing Province. If the census of 1911 should fall to give Saskatchewan a population of 400,000 the efficient administration of Provincial affairs with the revenues available would become impossible. There would be need to be heavy direct taxation or a special appeal to the Federal Government. But the most generous Federal assistance will not compensate the Province for the loss of its lands, timber and minerals. The modern systems of taxation the burden is laid upon natural resources. Witness the returns of Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia from mines and timber. British Columbia from mines and timber, from the reservation of a quarter interest in town sites and from other indirect sources, derives a great and increasing income for Provincial purposes. But in the Middle West we have an inferior order of politicians at Ottawa fix the scale of expenditure for these provinces, and trade in their natural resources. Local opinion is bound to be less influential at Ottawa than at Winnipeg, Regina or Edmonton, and there is certain to be waste and blundering if not fraud and scandal. The chapters of political history which record the dealing of Federal politicians with the natural resources of the West are not edifying. It is doubtless if those still to be written will be more sorry. It is inconvenient, therefore, that the politicians at Ottawa will submit permanently to an Ottawa Downing Street, and be content with rights and powers inferior to those which the older Provinces possess. On every ground the Federal policy is unjust and dangerous. If stubbornly persisted in it must have lamentable consequences in time to come. On this supreme issue, as on those concerning the duties on farm machinery, the public purchase of terminal elevators and Government construction of the Hudson Bay Railway, the leaders of the Conservative party are in accord with Western opinion, and this if the Government persists in wrong courses the constituencies will demonstrate when opportunity offers.

The cost of construction. Not only would the Western farmers be measurably at the mercy of a single corporation, but if this should become of the existing Transcontinental Railway companies the other two great through roads could get access to Hudson Bay only by favor of the privileged corporation. This would be to minimize the advantages of the Hudson Bay outlet and to create a situation which might ultimately become intolerable. Hence the West demands that no private monopoly over the new route shall be established, that the railway shall be constructed by the Government and retained under absolute public control, and that it shall be a common carrier for the three great transcontinental systems. This is the policy of Western Progressives whom we call Conservatives and there will be a formidable uprising of Western opinion, if the Government persists in its determination, or what is believed to be its determination, to vest control of the Hudson Bay route in the hands of a group of private capitalists. The truth is that the West is sick of political trading between Governments and corporations at the expense of the people and the offensive interference of these corporations in elections in part payment of their subsidies. A short time ago the Provincial Government of Saskatchewan guaranteed to the projected local railways to the amount of \$51,000,000 but refused not a single concession in return. Contrast this with the policy of the Manitoba Government or with that of the McBride Government in British Columbia. Generous they may have been with the railway promoters but at least they got present concessions and power to exact future concessions. A chief grievance is that of corporations which have not received generous Federal aid with municipal subsidies deal harshly with municipalities so eager for connection with the great railway systems that they assume heavy obligations and make unwise concessions in order to secure these enterprises. They need to be protected against themselves. There should be a greater public authority over selection of routes and the interests of municipalities. There should be at least a fair partnership between the people who give and the corporations which receive the subsidies. The West understands that it owes a great deal to the enterprise of adventurous railway builders, but it refuses to believe that its future is still in doubt, that it needs to be tutored by the Federal authorities, or that in political contests its constituencies should be the sport of subsidy hunters and subsidy getters.

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PRESS COMMENT

(Arcola Star.) The report continues to be persistent circulated that J. G. Turritt, M. P. for Assiniboia, is to be Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan. The astute Mr. Turritt says that he is not looking for the position. It is also reported that in any event Mr. Turritt will not be a candidate for re-election at the next general election. This will necessitate the selection of another candidate. At this period it may be pointed out that it should not be necessary to go outside the constituency to choose a man, for there is ample material and men of the right stamp in the Liberal ranks in Assiniboia to fill the post with credit to themselves and the district. In the event of Mr. Turritt's acceptance the Lieutenant-Governorship a bye-election will be necessary by next spring.

Winnipeg Telegram. The Toronto Globe and the Toronto World are at war over the tariff question. It is argued on the one hand that the Globe is bent on consummating a treaty of reciprocity, that it has sent a commissioner to Washington to further the cause, and that it is in the constant touch with President Taft and Theodore Roosevelt. The Globe responds by reproducing a circular letter in which the World puts a price on its advocacy of protection. Neither the Globe nor the World is aiding in the solution of the tariff problem. Everyone knows that the World is an uncompromising protectionist and everyone knows that the Globe is what the Laurier government from time to time tells it to be. It is true that the Globe has an unsavory history. It has been, as

the humor suited it, an exponent of commercial union, of unrestricted reciprocity, of free trade and of various other tariff expedients. But at present the Globe is not vitally interested in any of these things. It is chiefly concerned in maintaining the tariff on farm implements and on the products of other favored interests which the present tariff is enriching at the public expense.

The Globe vigorously defends the tariff on farm implements. It is trying desperately to direct public attention from this, the least defensible of all the tariff schedules. It is talking loudly about reciprocity, taking care at the same time to warn the farmers that if they desire to be relieved of oppressive tariff measures they must pay for the relief by surrendering what protection they enjoy on agricultural implements.

The Globe thinks it can mask its game behind a clamorous advocacy of reciprocity. But the reciprocity it advocates is of an indefinite character. It is reciprocity which must not touch the pockets of the manufacturers of farm implements; it is reciprocity in which the farmer must settle for tariff concessions received. If the World will watch the Globe a little more closely it will realize that it's barking up the wrong tree. The Globe's mission in life at the present moment is to shout "thief" where there is no thief and to keep the spotlight from the neighborhood of the protected brigade who have been nursed into influence by the Laurier government.

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