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## ENGLISH INVESTMENTS IN AMERICAN LANDS—A PLEA FOR THE COLONIES.

We are glad to notice that increased attention is being drawn to Canada as a home for emigrants from the United Kingdom. In the Liverpool Journal of Commerce of the 10th of June there appears a long letter from Mr. Molynseaux Jones, pointing out the advantages of the North-West to those engaged in agricultural and stock-raising pursuits. The publication of such letters cannot fail to be productive of beneficial results. And, editorially, the British Freeman's Journal says on the subject—"When a systematized emigration into Canada has received the practical aid of the Government as well as of private philanthropists, although one may not approve of a forced emigration from any country, it is only common sense to look facts in the face and find out as much information for the people who will go away as possible. It has been said from time to time that the value of the wheat lands of Manitoba and the North-West Territory of Canada but little is known of the cattle-raising capabilities of the Dominion. English gentlemen of large means have acquired land in the Bow River District. Railways are being made with surprising enterprise. 'The Bunchgrass Country' is rapidly growing in public estimation as a beef-making land. Law and order are undisturbed. The Indians are in this part the strongest holders of the law. The herds of wild cattle of this prairie have given rise to splendid breeds. Considerable facilities exist for obtaining cheap stock, especially of high class bulls, and of course the acquiring of land is comparatively easy in this early stage of the development of the Dominion. But every day will make it more difficult. The early bird catches the early worm." It appears that American railway and land speculators are particularly busy in the West, and are pointing out the advantages of settlement in the Western

States. Active agents are employed in picturing in glowing colours the resources and the climate of our neighbours' unoccupied territory, and every means is resorted to for the purpose of promoting emigration and settlement there. The London Times, in a city article, recently drew attention to the nature of some of the land prospectuses which had made their appearance, urging caution on the part of capitalists. Commenting on the Times' article, The Colonist and India, a journal, as its name suggests, published in the interests of the colonies, says in an article entitled "American Colonization with British Capital:"

"With the purely speculative part of these associations it is not our business to meddle. It may be that the prospects before the fortunate shareholders of those who intend to share in them as purchasers of lands in the American territory that the British Colonies offer advantages quite as great as any which Minnesota or Dakota can give, with this additional one, that the settler in one of them does not cease to be a British citizen. We have lands in Australia and in New Zealand, in Canada, and even in South Africa, equal, if not superior to any in the State, which may be obtained quite as cheaply, even if we include in the cost the larger passage money. And it is curious that one of the very inducements put forth to shareholders by the Dakota and Minnesota Land Corporation is a quotation from the Money Market Review, 'Illustrating the success which has attended the operations of companies investing in the colonies.' But if the illustration has any force, it proves something which is not what these American land companies desire to have proved—namely, that the schemes which have hitherto been successful have been, without exception, those which have made the colonies their field of operations."

Canadians, and residents in all the colonies generally, will be pleased to know that there are some few journals in England which take an interest in the development of their country, preferring to see British capital employed here rather than in enriching the United States. There never was a time when it was more desirable that the advantages of Canada should be urged than the present. Knowing the value and importance of our vast and fertile territories in the North-West, the Americans seem to be making a special effort to place their unoccupied regions in the west prominently before the people of the old world. The Government of the Dominion did a wise act when it invited British tenant farmers to Canada to see for themselves. It has already brought forth fruit. The circulation of literature bearing upon the nature of the soil, the climate and the general condition of our North-West possessions, the lectures of prominent men before the Royal Colonial Institute, the letters in leading newspapers from travellers who have visited the country, and the editorial comments which have appeared in favour of encouraging emigration to Canada rather than to the United States, have all been of great advantage to Canada; and we hope, now that increased attention is being given to the country, that British journals which have hitherto ignored this country will follow the example of The Colonist and India.

Companies are robbing the Empire of its citizens, and adding to the power and resources of its most formidable commercial rival. It may be that this is a nation consideration in the eyes of those who get up these schemes, but it is our business to point out to those who intend to share in them as purchasers of lands in the American territory that the British Colonies offer advantages quite as great as any which Minnesota or Dakota can give, with this additional one, that the settler in one of them does not cease to be a British citizen. We have lands in Australia and in New Zealand, in Canada, and even in South Africa, equal, if not superior to any in the State, which may be obtained quite as cheaply, even if we include in the cost the larger passage money. And it is curious that one of the very inducements put forth to shareholders by the Dakota and Minnesota Land Corporation is a quotation from the Money Market Review, 'Illustrating the success which has attended the operations of companies investing in the colonies.' But if the illustration has any force, it proves something which is not what these American land companies desire to have proved—namely, that the schemes which have hitherto been successful have been, without exception, those which have made the colonies their field of operations."

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## PATENTS IN ENGLAND.

In the British House of Commons a couple of weeks ago, Mr. Anderson, member for Glasgow, introduced a Bill affecting patents, a subject of interest in this country, and one upon which a discussion took place in the House of Commons last session. On the occasion of his moving the second reading of the Bill Mr. Anderson pointed out the nature of its provisions. We give the summary of his speech as we find it in the Liverpool Courier. Mr. Anderson dismissed the idea that the bill was for the benefit of inventors only, because the good of the inventor was the good of the public. The heavy tax on inventors had acted as a system of repression, though it had been argued that the heavy tax on patents had been the means of driving out the incomplete, imperfect, and useless patents. This argument was met by the answer that the useless inventions defeated themselves, as there was

a natural weeding out of useless patents by the public not taking them. He drew attention to the fact that the Russian Government actually refused a patent for the Bessemer process, and the German Government for the Siemens process. It was the interest of a country, he pointed out, to stimulate inventive genius to the utmost, and if this were done an enormous amount of good would be done to the manufacturing industry. The spirit in which the bill was drawn was that the interest of the inventor and the interest of the public ran in parallel lines—that the manufacturing industry of the country required the utmost amount of inventiveness that could be drawn from the brains of the people, and that that could only be got by treating inventors in a liberal spirit and rewarding them as much as possible. He reminded the House that the principle in America was that the Patent Office should pay its expenses and no more, and that every penny beyond that taken from the inventor was an injury to the country. In America a patent was given for seventeen years for the small charge of \$55. England charged \$875 for fourteen years, or twenty five times as much for a less valuable privilege. The American system stimulated invention so much more than England that they had 15,000 patents a year where they could only get 3,300. That paid them £30,000 a year, and it was now proposed to reduce the cost of a patent to less than the present sum of £7. The most important inventions of recent times, said Mr. Anderson, came from America—the sewing machine, the knitting machine, the type-setting machine, the electric light, the telephone, the microphone, and so through the whole gamut of inventions, down to the less important, such as mouse-traps, apple-peelers, and a thousand other useful articles. He considered that the reason the Americans could understand more intelligent workmen; and secondly because they had superior tools and labour-saving appliances, which were got entirely through the liberality of the Patent Laws. He then proceeded to point out the principles of his bill. First, it was that here should be paid commissioners to do the work, instead of leaving it to the law officers of the Crown, who had far more important functions to perform. The next principle was to extend the period of patents to twenty-one years instead of the present term of fourteen. That, he remarked, might be too long, but at all events it should not be less than seventeen years, the American term. It was true an extension beyond fourteen years could now be got, but that was very difficult and costly. The next principle was that whatever change was made in the terms on which new patents were to be got, all patents in life at the time of the passing of the bill, if it did pass, should at once enter upon the new state and get the benefit of the new charge for the remainder of their existence. The next important point was that there should be some term of grace for the payment of the periodical fees. If the extension in payment did not exceed three months, there should be a fine of an additional quarter of the tax; three months and not six, half tax extra; six months and not nine, three-quarters extra; nine and not twelve months, double the fee. The bill proposed a reduction of the fees, which proposition after all was only tentative, and might be further reduced if the fees then charged were found to be more than sufficient to pay the expenses of the Patent Office. There ought to be no payment beyond the initial payment (1) six or seven years, instead of as at present three years to enable the inventor to remunerate himself for the

first outlay. The next point was that servants of the Crown might take out patents, provided they were not connected with the Patent Office. Many of the servants of the Crown desired this exemption, and it was very hard that because a man happened to be in the service of the Crown he was not to get the benefit of any inventive genius he might possess. The last point was that where the Crown took the use of inventions the remuneration to be paid to the patentee should be estimated not by the Crown but by an arbitrator. He proposed also amendments to the present law. They did not include all the amendments that might be made, he remarked, but they would effect a reform which would be satisfactory to inventors, and be an immense benefit to the country. It might be said that he (Mr. Anderson) was aiming at too much, and that this was a subject which ought to be taken up by the Government. He would only be too happy if the Government would take it in hand, but if they intended to do so they ought to take it up in a liberal spirit. A short discussion followed, and the bill was referred to Committee.

## A WEATHER PROPHECY FULFILLED.

On the 21st of June, Dr. Stone Wiggins, of St. John, New Brunswick, now of the Finance Department, published in this journal a letter signed "Astronomer," announcing the approach of a terrible tornado that would in a few days visit this continent. A portion of his letter reads as follows, most of the journals who copied it heading it with the words, "An Astronomer's Warning":—"As the moon will be at her inferior conjunction on the 25th, and as the planets will be but a few degrees out of conjunction, I would advise seamen to get their vessels into safe harbours till that date be passed. Terrible gales, accompanied by hail, will blow from the southeast along the Atlantic coast. Brilliant showers of meteors will occur, especially within the tropics. The tides will be unusually high in the West Indies, and hurricanes will prevail on the east side of the Rocky Mountains. The month of July will be excessively hot, owing to the heated atmosphere returning from the equatorial regions." Knowing that this gentleman had twenty years ago written a work on Astronomy, these words were considered of such importance that they were wired to every part of the continent by the Associated Press Agent in this city, and the following morning appeared in all the leading journals in Canada and the United States. This gale, here so accurately foretold, and which for its wide area, its violence and destructiveness, has had no equal since the settlement of the country, first showed itself in the Southern States, its fury, if possible, increasing as it proceeded northward, where many lives have been lost and millions worth of property destroyed. On Saturday, the 25th of June, it swept over Georgia and Virginia, uprooting trees, throwing down chimneys and prostrating buildings—burying many persons in the ruins—and carrying timbers through the air as if made of straw. Thousands of bushels of wheat were literally pounded into the earth, and for twenty-four hours the ballstones lay six inches deep upon the ground. On Sunday, the 26th, it appeared so far east as the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and at Monmouth, N.B., the hail could have been collected in bushels. On Monday it appeared at Washington, doing immense damage to the city and its vicinity. At the same moment it struck into New Hampshire. A Franklin despatch (N. H.) of the 28th says: "During a tornado here yesterday (Monday), ballstones more than an inch in diameter fell. Half the houses in the town had the windows shattered, multitudes of chimneys were swept down, trees uprooted and gardens are everywhere in ruins. Many buildings are severely