



HARVESTING IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

the P. and O. liners first make acquaintance with sunny Australia.

With the knowledge that Western Australia has a busy mining industry, a marvelous development of wheat-growing resources and extensive opening up of opportunities for industrial enterprises of all kinds, it is well to pause for a moment and consider how it is that this remote country has been able to attract the class of settler which does pioneer work, and how it has fared in immigration in comparison with this Canadian province that is but half the distance from the Motherland.

The keynote of the policy in Western Australia has been the development of waste crown lands through the state government, and not through private enterprise. In other words, it is the straight answer to the question of state versus the speculator in bringing the manless land in touch with the landless man. The provincial tax commission has heard much on its tour through British Columbia on how to distribute the incidence of taxation so that the other fellow should bear the burden, and while sitting in Victoria was directly challenged to go on record in favor of colo-

nization schemes promoted by the government, rather than leave the development of the province to private enterprise. The argument put up was that the government has not the same financial interest in settling a man on the land as the private speculator, who has some monetary benefit to expect from settlement, even if the immigrant does not actually settle on the land of the company which brings him to the district.

It may be said, speaking generally, that the policy of British Columbian governments has been to dispose of the land in large blocks to speculators and to organizations of various types, some philanthropical in character, others avowedly commercial, and after placing the man on the ground let him work out his own salvation.

A strong analogy may be drawn between British Columbia and Western Australia in the fact that both are the western sections of their respective federations. Both have large areas of practically valueless land to administer, and both have an Oriental problem. Vast of acreage as is the West Australian state, much of it is worthless for agricultural land, and is so regarded