

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS.

Now what shall I say of the depopulation of the Townships which you charge us with. The story is a sad one. About the end of the 18th century, following the American revolution, the province of Quebec gave hundreds of thousands of acres of land to the United Empire Loyalists and to the English and Scots that came directly from the Old Country. We can proudly say that none of the Colonies had such a fine type of emigrants. In a comparatively short time, the Quebec-American formed a gentry of the very best class. Fine houses, vast fields, perfect cultivation of the soil gave to the Townships a most picturesque aspect : in fact, so beautiful to the eye was the vista that it yet bears the name among us of the Canadian Switzerland. Alas ! It is said that Spain became intoxicated and finally died from the gold that came from America. In the same way, our fellow-countrymen of English extraction were extinguished by their wealth. As you very properly say, although unaware of the cruelty of your observation, their sons provided the large garrisons of Quebec and Montreal, and the inevitable consequence was that the farm suffered by the desertion. The young people would not come back to the land and lead the simple life. Thereafter the lot of the tiller of the soil became more unbearable. The easy and productive raising of cattle for the market was no longer possible : recourse had to be had to the dairy industry which required much manual labor. But the English speaking father was not blessed with many children and the "rari nantes" did not feel inclined to do work which soiled the hands and bent the back. They went away. To-day these fine houses are only inhabited by the old folks. The farms have taken a pitiable aspect. No schools, no churches. The big English farmer has lost the influence that he once had in the municipal councils and elsewhere. They are not to be reckoned with. They feel their misfortune and bewail their lot. But whose fault is it ? They themselves are the architects of their own fate. They advertise their goods for sale ; they petition the Catholic priest to come to their assistance. Is it then surprising that our young men, sober, brave, loving the land that bore them and coming from the fief-held Seigniorial districts, have bought and are continuing to buy by the hundreds these British created settlements ? Mark the contrast ! Land which is worth one hundred to one hundred and fifty dollars an acre in the French districts, is sold from thirty to fifty dollars in the Townships.

NOT DESIRED.

This is a short sketch of the depopulation of the Townships and the invasion of the French-Canadians. Far from desiring the banishment of our fellow-subjects, we hope that some day in the near future they will come back into their own. Some short time ago, the Federal Government, at the solicitation of one of the greatest men produced in the Townships, made a grant with the object of re-peopling these districts. But the scheme, although attempted in Great Britain, came to naught. And now it is to be feared that the once prosperous English speaking settlement in the Townships is doomed to disappear. In a quarter of a century hence there will not be one gentleman-farmer to tell the tale of his self-deserved misfortune.