

per cent. most of the best paper being written at 7½ per cent."

Pittsburg: "Some country banks have refused to consider any proposition for loans from any but their old customers."

BACK TO THE LAND.

The cry of the economic student whose heart is his country and who has his country at heart is "Back to the Land." For years in Great Britain the progressive parliamentarian has prattled, sometimes earnestly, the parson has preached, and the social reformer has shouted from the city housetops, "Back to the Land." Being translated, this means, thin out the crowded sea of humanity which ever rolls inwards to the city.

Back to the Land. We in Canada may give the phrase a new significance—a significance which, if gripping the imagination of the prospective immigrant, may mean a greater setback to the end we most desire than would at first appear. Many applications have been received at the Ontario Buildings of late from people who desire to get back to the land—not to the plains of Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan, not to the woods of Ontario, not to the fertile valleys of British Columbia, not to any of these or other lands imploring the assistance of sinewy labor, but to the land from whence they came.

In England, in Scotland, in Ireland, they heard the story of Canada. The blood of the pioneer surged hot through their veins, as they endeavored to grasp the full import of Canada's nom d'immigration, Land of the Free. From Land's End to John o' Groat's, from the extreme south of England to the far north of Scotland has been preached the gospel of Canada—preached loudly and continuously, first by Government spokesmen, later by anybody and everybody. Some ingenious man has a name for the British craze of talking of the new life, and hope, and assured prosperity in this Land of the Free. "Canadaitis"—not euphonical, perhaps, but expressive enough for the stolid Scotchman, the active Irishman, and the insular and garrulous Cockney.

All are to gain by this transference of population. The ranks of the British unemployed are to be thinned so that one man may buy a loaf of bread, where formerly two men haggled for the possession of a crust. Canada is to profit by the peopling of its lands, the transportation companies are to gain, the charitable agencies—the qualifying adjective being sometimes merely ornamental—are to profit by organizing emigration parties and shipping men like sheep to this Land of the Free. They arrive on shores their forefathers trod centuries ago. This is the point at which the charitable agencies might contrive to administer a little charity; at which the country, urgently needing and constantly appealing for new blood, might reasonably be expected to warm the heart which was, a few days before, beating in sympathy with aspirations three thousand miles distant. The brave man, and sometimes the braver woman, who wraps the knitted shawl around the babe at her breast, bid farewell to home as they know it with hope beating eternal and a fervent prayer for the future. Only a man with a heart of stone could witness without a painful throb the majestic liner as it leaves the port, its decks upholding a multitude of men and women—Canadians to be.

And in our Canadian cities are hundreds of unemployed. Up the steps of the Ontario Parliament Buildings men have slowly, perhaps shame-facedly, wended their way to seek aid to send them back to the land from whence they came, aid from a country that was instrumental in turning their thoughts and footsteps to it.

This, perhaps, to the financier, to the captain of industry, to the banker, may seem far removed from their spheres of interest. It may be labelled seasonable sentiment. But the peopling of Canada is of the utmost

primary and vital importance to the whole community. The capitalist who says: "Any labor for me so long as it is labor; never mind the future of the country," may be a capitalist; he is not a citizen. When you populate a trout fishery, you do it scientifically. The country which desires to properly people a land area of more than three and a half million square miles must do so in other ways than by rule of thumb. The number of returning immigrants is small, some may say. Probably so. The hundreds of unemployed in our cities may be counted on the fingers of two hands, some may say. But those who are taking their homeward journey across the Atlantic, disappointed and disheartened, and those who have paced sidewalks for days, maybe weeks, spending the savings accumulated in the Motherland in the hope of obtaining some sort of employment in the Daughterland, with their tongues, with their pens, gall-tipped, maybe, destroy a vast amount of the good work accomplished by the Government immigration campaign. What must be the thoughts of our kinsman across the seas when his brother returns with word that his last penny was spent in Toronto, Montreal, and Winnipeg, that he could not obtain employment, that he sought assistance from some department whose literature attracted him to these shores.

There may be those who say that all is right. Surely it cannot be right that sturdy, able-bodied men are allowed to return to the over-populated English cities which knew him before the Dominion did. The argument that the winter always brings its crop of unemployed is unfortunately true, but each succeeding winter brings a larger crop; in which there is scope for reflection. In half a dozen parts of the Dominion the immigrant finds no labor for his hands. In other parts, there is the constant, strenuous appeal for the workman who comes not. Something is wrong in the method of distribution of this needed and valuable labor.

Goldwin Smith, whose pessimism is not always unreasonable, in conversation with the writer once said that the Canadian city would in years to come be compelled to grapple with the multiplicity of social problems which now vex the English civic authorities and the poor law guardian. If little work is to be obtained in the cities of Canada this winter, the fact should be proclaimed abroad with as much publicity as are the many heartsome and glad stories. Decentralization of labor supply should help solve the matter. This country will suffer, so far as its population problems are concerned, by a superabundance of Canadian optimism in Great Britain and an insufficient superintendence of the agencies arranging for the immigration of many thousands. The legislative and other machinery this side of the water might well be strengthened, now that a continual stream of humanity is percolating into Canada from the countries of Europe. Many a new citizen, perhaps, has become disheartened before even his mettle has been tested. But allowing for his every shortcoming, there is an immediate necessity for more stringent Government supervision of the methods adopted by responsible and irresponsible parties to add another cypher to the figures representing the population of the Land of the Free.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The fake company promoter is an excellent financial barometer. When he spreads his inky impression on a whole page of the daily newspaper you may be sure that money is becoming "easy"—and people.

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Is there any just cause, reason or impediment why Royal proclamations, legal inspirations, and things of that ilk should be besmattered with a high percentage of "Whereas," "We, therefore, in pursuance," and so on? Much valuable time must be wasted in sifting from ancient verbiage the real import of the Royal proclamation regarding the establishment of the Ottawa mint.