



The WAY of LETTERS

THE London *Outlook* regards "Canada and the Empire," a book written recently by a well-known financier, W. R. Lawson, as "an expert view of Canadian problems." Maybe it is, but sometimes even experts make miscalculations. In the first place, Mr. Lawson is an ardent Imperialist, and he considers Canada after having first considered the Empire. He doesn't give Canada the consideration that she should have in view of the title. With him, it is not a question of what is best for Canada, but what is best for the Empire. He upbraids the British Parliament, the British press and the British pulpit, not for their neglect of the interests of Canada, but for their neglect of the interests of the Empire. He says:

"When the Canadians talk as if they and they alone had made their country what it is to-day, it is permissible to remind them of a few things they seem to have forgotten in the past forty years of their history. When they flatter themselves that they are going ahead of the Old Country and working out a grand destiny for themselves, let them stop a moment and consider what would happen to the Northwest if wheat fell back to sixty cents a bushel and other cereals proportionately. Where would the twenty dollars per acre farm-lands, and the thousand dollars a foot home-lots be then? Two events are not inconceivable which would upset the whole fabric of land values in the Northwest. One is that new virgin wheat-fields may be developed, and the other that the output of existing fields may be greatly increased. A third contingency is worth

mentioning, that the domestic food production of Great Britain may be immensely increased in the near future."

Mr. Lawson goes on to say that what Canada needs now from abroad is brute force, as she has enough brains of her own, and he adds that the time is fast approaching when Canada will need neither skilled nor unskilled labour from the Old Country. (London: William Blackwood. 6s net).

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MR. THEODORE GOODRIDGE ROBERTS, who was abroad during the last two years, has returned to his home at Fredericton, New Brunswick. His latest volume, "Comrades of the Trail," was published recently, and he reports that since his return he has received orders for a series of short stories, as well as several novels. "Goodridge" is a recent addition to his name. On his return from Europe he discovered that some piratical writer had been trading on his name, hence the addition. "Comrades of the Trail" is a fine volume of adventure in the north woods, an account of the attempt of a young Englishman to realise his ambition to explore in Northern Canada. It is told with this author's descriptive power and knowledge of wild life. The illustrations are by Charles Livingston Bull. (Boston: L. C. Page & Company. Cloth, \$1.50).