

in Canada to match the regulations of our more sensible and less accomodating neighbours? During the last few winters the ranks of the unemployed, especially in the city of Montreal, have been largely swelled by citizens of the United States. Bona fide immigrants are one thing, but the transient foreigner without means, in search of temporary occupation in an overcrowded market is nothing but a drawback to the country.

It would seem that, as the country grows older, there must always be some, who, through no fault of their own, in the search for occupation, will be left out in the cold. To these men we say, "Back to the land." And this was evidently in the mind of our Provincial Minister of Agriculture, when last autumn, if we remember right, he wrote several letters to the newspapers, advising the unemployed in the cities to take up and cultivate lands in the North Western part of Ontario. How far his advice was followed we do not know. But we can safely say that, so far as any system goes, home colonization, in Ontario at any rate, has been completely neglected.

Perhaps we shrink from the task. We are met with many of the same problems and the same difficulties here as confront us in the conduct of immigration from abroad. There is the necessity of guarding against haphazard settlement and providing an objective point for settlers by the formation of colonies, the need of expert management of such colonies as may be formed, the difficulty of supplying funds for the assistance of indigent settlers without treating them as paupers, and the need of a broad, popular, practical association of the people for missionary work and organization, under Government direction, which will at the same time afford scope to, and keep in its place, well meaning but inexperienced zeal.

Are we in earnest in this work? If we are not, we had better leave it alone; for it is only by earnest and united effort that we can ever hope to make any scheme of colonization a success. If we are, and can afford the time, we should grapple with it at once; for the evil we are discussing is not only continuous, but, as statistics show, is increasing year by year. Moreover, Governments cannot do everything. Like Providence, they best help those who help themselves. And in these days of economy, any new departure requiring the expenditure of money must be started as a concession to popular demand.

This is an age of concentration and the machinery of the world's progress is composed of associations and the press. If, therefore, we want to make any progress towards the solution of this problem, we must form an association, not many, but one, with different branches, if you like. It must be semi-official, non-political, and continuous in character. It must be recognized by the Government and embrace the churches, labour-unions, and associated charities and all such agencies and individuals as are interested in the cause. And we must secure the co-operation of the press.

How is this association to be formed? There are some people who say that the common interest which makes men lay aside their little cabals, jealousies and party interests and binds them together for any continuous practical effort, must be centred not in the head, or the heart, but the pocket. Surely that is not true!

How about our charitable associations, temperance societies, and the hundred and one other associations which men form without any idea of profit? Such a doctrine makes our task harder, but we will meet the objectors and accept this as one of our fundamental principles.

If the foundation of the association is to rest upon investment, the investment must consist in lending money to impecunious settlers. Under proper management we believe that money can be loaned for the purposes of colonization to Canadians with no less success than has attended the advances made by the Dominion Government to the Mennonite settlers in the North-West. But, no doubt, there are many who do not think so, and subscriptions would undoubtedly be difficult to obtain. Consequently, it will be necessary that the repayment of principle and interest should be guaranteed by the Government, the municipality to which the applicant belongs, or a substantial fund subscribed by charitable people. If this principle were adopted the association could be formed, as we have before proposed, in the construction of Colonial Clubs in Great Britain, upon the lines of the Building and Loan Co-operative Associations.

Such a method would be more cumbersome and more expensive than the alternative plan of having the money advanced directly by the Government. On the other hand it would seem to be the only means by which the element of investment can be made the basis of popular organization.

Do the advantages outweigh the cost? If such a plan were unpractical, the association might be formed upon the lines of the Chatauqua reading circles. The membership fee would then consist of a subscription to the circulating library.

In addition to providing funds for the unemployed, we would suggest as the functions of this association: (1) To act as the labour bureau which we have advocated above. (2) To act as colonization agents to collect and organize settlers for such colonies as may be formed. (3) To perform the duties of a circulating library among its members of all literature bearing upon the objects of the association. (4) To hold meetings at stated intervals for the discussion of given subjects, announced beforehand, bearing upon the questions of home colonization and the other problems of the unemployed.

We cannot attempt to discuss all the points to be considered in the formation and management of the colony. But shortly we would submit the following as necessary conditions: (1) The resident manager of the colony should be carefully chosen and appointed and paid by the Government. His duties should be to instruct and supervise where necessary, to manage the labour farm, and generally to look after the colony and the comfort of settlers on arrival. (2) The colony should be platted out on a definite plan, looking to the advantage of close neighbours and social intercourse. We might, with advantage, copy the formation of colonies in the early settlements of Australia, with their common for the pasturage of cattle, the race track, and the public grounds for games. We might also learn many useful lessons from the early settlement of Utah in providing buildings for the amusement of the people. (3) A committee should be chosen from among the settlers of each year, whose duty it will be to attend to the collection of all loans made to members of the colony for that year.

Among other questions of importance to be considered are the element of co-operation, the application of electricity in the cultivation and fructification of the land, the limitation of the size of the holdings, the prevention of speculative holdings, the advisability of ploughing and sowing the land before the arrival of settlers, the admission of foreign immigrants to the colony, the erection of buildings for the reception of settlers, the application of the unearned increment in the value of the town-site, and the best means of impressing upon the people the necessity of diversified products.

As a popular science the subject of colony building has been entirely neglected. We have scarcely mounted the bottom rung of the ladder. In all these questions we require education and careful and laborious study from the start.

England has set us an example to copy, and an example to avoid. The English people are forming themselves into societies to draw population from the cities to the land. In October, 1894, the English Land Colonization Company held a conference in Holborn Town Hall, and under the title of "Co-operative Labour upon the Land," they have published a series of papers dealing with co-operation in land holding, credit banks and agricultural production; with improved methods of cultivation; with the unemployed in relation to land; and with forms of colonies. These papers were contributed by experts upon each subject. Among others we may mention Major Poore, Lord Carrington, Mr. Harold Moore and Mr. Walter Hazel. M.P.

But we cannot help thinking that, in the multiplication of societies for home as well as foreign colonization, England makes a grave mistake. Energy is dissipated and the field is laid open to incompetent people. Amateur work has done great harm to foreign immigration. It may be equally prejudicial to colonization at home. Popular effort cannot be entirely prohibited and replaced by government agencies, neither is it desirable. But all the lessons we have learnt from the operations of Englishmen, whether as individuals or societies, in the work of colonization upon this continent, point unmistakably to the necessity of concentration in management and direction; and this necessity becomes greater as interest in the subject becomes more extended.