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EDITORIAL

Americans Leaving Canada

"Dissatisfied, discouraged, homesick and bankrupt, thousands of American settlers in the Canadian Northwest are turning their faces again toward the land where snow and ice do not come in August and where a variety of crops can be successfully grown. This is the natural result of the blind rush for lands whose main recommendation was their cheapness. Pictured in the glowing terms of the land-boomer, the semi-arid sections of Alberta have drawn poor but worthy farmers from their comfortable homes to experience the disheartening realization that time has neither mollified nor moistened the climate of that land. It is still a place where farming is fraught with difficulties.

"Although the emigration of homeseekers to Western Canada was larger this spring than a year ago, the tide has turned. Clarence J. Blanchard, of the reclamation service, reports that he has talked with a great number of settlers who are forsaking the experiment with Alberta irrigated lands to seek homes south of the line. Alfalfa and wheat have been their main crops, and these are not sure owing to the short season. The incongenial government, the high freight rates necessary to get crops to market and the long winter have been additional causes of discontent. It is reported that during the last nine months 15,000 settlers have returned to the United States from Canada, and the movement is increasing. These men have discovered that there was a reason for the cheapness of the land, but it has cost them dearly in cash and in hardship for their families to find it out."

* * *

This is what our esteemed contemporary, *The Breeders' Gazette*, gives in a recent issue under the caption "Canadian Settlers Disillusioned." It is a long time since we learned

not to consider seriously many of the "disillusioning" stories given prominence by daily newspapers; but when an agricultural journal of repute hands out such blackmail in a leading editorial it is a different matter. If the writer of that article had visited the Canadian West or looked up reliable statistics, instead of basing his remarks on a piece of "literature" prepared by interested parties whose pockets have been hurt by migrations to Canada, he would have tuned his words to a different story.

The "facts" for the yarns appearing in many newspapers and journals in the United States seem to have been furnished by a man named Blanchard, who is connected with the reclamation service in Montana. Despite the fact that half sections of Montana land have been offered free to settlers Canada has been drawing thousands each year. Railway companies and land syndicates, who are interested, have decided to put a stop to this rush to the Canadian Northwest. When it was learned that some parts of our prairie country had not been favored with copious rains it was considered opportune to open the "campaign."

* * *

But in the rashness of their frenzy they have so overstepped the mark that no one who stops to consider will take them seriously. Imagine what a return 15,000 settlers to the United States means! Families also would go along with the settler, so that at five to a family there would be an exodus of some 75,000 from Canada. Slightly more than 50,000 have come to Canada from the United States since March 1st, so that counting but three to a family the loss would almost equal the gain. Railways admit trains are crowded coming in, but few will agree that they carry as many back.

On the face of it the story is ridiculous. What are the facts? Commissioner Walker, of the immigration department, is in close touch with all particulars. His men have access to books containing statistics. A careful investigation shows that between January 1 and July 27 of this year, only 184 settlers have returned from Canada to the United States. To offset this and impress its insignificance, the entries show that from March 1 to July 27 over 50,000 persons entered Canada from the United States, between Winnipeg and the Rocky Mountains, declaring they were Americans desirous of becoming permanent settlers.

* * *

The settlers who have come from the United States to Canada in recent years are not the kind that easily become "dissatisfied, discouraged and homesick." They knew much about the country before they decided to sell what they had and move. They knew that there was no guarantee that they would not meet early frosts, dry weather or hail is bound to evolve.

now and then. But they were satisfied that they would get bigger returns for their labor in a series of ten years or five years than they would get anywhere else on the globe. In some sections this year's dry weather has been a disappointment, but it has not sent thousands of our good Americans back across the line. They know that we have the soil for growing cereals, and they are already preparing for a bumper crop in 1911.

* * *

The distribution of this false literature through the United States will do no harm to Canada. It is a case of "every knock is a boost." Those who had thought of migrating northward will investigate carefully and find out from their friends the falsity of the base reports. When they look into the matter they will come and make number one citizens.

After all, settlers are not brought to Canada or kept at home by press reports alone. These simply direct attention and then investigation is made. The best settlers are those who come because someone they know has already settled and writes back: "Come on out; it's a great country!"

Hints at "snow and ice in August," and a "blind rush for lands whose main recommendation was their cheapness" sound good for the use of the disgruntled knocker. In the twentieth century, however, figures count. It is only necessary to look up crop yields for a series of years to decide whether or not the prairie provinces of Canada offer inducements to farmers. We have the land; we have the climate; we have the people—and we are getting more of the latter from across the line every year. They know there are "difficulties" and "hardships," but they are made of the stuff that can meet difficulties and hardships such as loom up in Prairie Canada and become prosperous citizens.

Inter-provincial Trade Relations

Better trade relations between British Columbia and the prairie provinces has been the subject of much thought and discussion for some time. The productivity of the virgin soils, augmented by the great influx of settlers, makes markets and marketing conditions an issue of growing importance. The United Farmers' Association of Alberta have taken the initiative in bringing about a conference of all the producing and consuming interests of Alberta and British Columbia. This conference is to be held in Vancouver this month, the object being to work out some scheme whereby obstacles in the way of inter-provincial trade can be removed. Whether or not the outcome of the conference results in the removal of existing hindrances, the betterment of inter-provincial trade relations