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In certain districts a homesteader in good standing may pre-empt a quarter-section alongside his homestead. Price \$3.00 per acre.

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the traditions he revered beckoned; in his presence pleaded the living and the loved. The conflict was soul-racking, overwhelming in the moving impulses it stirred. A baby's voice, soft and crooning, caused Isaac to look in the direction of the curtained passage-way leading to the hall. The folds were thrown aside, and a nurse handed the small human bundle to its father.

"Grandfather!" Phelon muttered, soft-

ly, extending the white pillowed baby towards his father-in-law.

The magic word dispelled the clouds that obscured Isaac's face. He leaped forward and implanted a kiss on the face of the new born.

"It's a boy!" Phelon whispered.

Isaac's hand descended caressingly on the head of the daughter. As he brought his lips close to her forehead, he muttered Esther."

What of the Future.

By William Lutton



NE sees a never ending procession of men, women and children on the steady march to the Northwest. Ethnically the diversity is extreme; the Caucasian predominates, but the far East is substantially hinted.

The streets of Winnipeg are vivid with racial variegation. The pale Galician rubs elbows with the swarthy Italian; the dark-eyed Syrian touches clothes with the solid Russian; the Hungarian jostles the mystic Hindu; the phlegmatic Swede hobnobs with the mercurial Pole. There is an impatient locomotive; there is a receding horizon; there is a picturesque procession through the streets of the new towns and cities then there is a vacuum. Not even with the most powerful glass could you discern a single figure silhouetted against the sky line. During the past year something like 400,000 souls have been added to the population of the Dominion. It is said there is something wrong with the census; it is said that when we get the people they do not stay, but the government land offices would correct that notion. The marvelous growth of our western towns and cities would rule that pessimism out of court.

There are forty-one tongues and dialects in the west today. There is a diversified life there which is at once the wonder and the despair of those interested in the development of the great western country—so fresh and hopeful, so veritably the last great west of the world.

One can see the urban communities grow like magic. In the effete East the town or city is built before it has the elementary services which are the sine qui non of decent living. When the West thinks of building a town it lays down the services first—the water, the gas, the sewers, the sidewalks, the permanent pavements, the grass and garden plots—then it sets down the houses and life begins, easy and comfortable.

One sees the trolley while the plaster is still wet in the walls; the church and school unite while the street is being homologated; the cement sidewalk is laid down before the people move in; the corporation is set on foot before the water tax is due. There is haste but there is thoroughness.

One notes how the institutions develop. There are halls for social gatherings and there is the lodge room for mystery and goodfellowship; there is the church for spirituality, which, in young communities is apt to fail under the presence of the material; there is the civic authority, to give permanence and prestige to the new organism.

People make money. There is a fever in the blood. The chief lure is gain. To the disinherited of the earth who flock from afar it is life and living; it is the free air of heaven; it is the thrill of ownership as the foot presses the free soil; it is the sense of new found volition of which they were deprived by oppression in other lands—being turned off the soil for the sake of game and deer preserves; but one sees the hectic flush of the speculator, notes the frenzy of competition, the delirium of haste in the new and hopeful world still to be stamped with enduring character.

The spiritual problem (using the word in its non-theological sense) is the deepest. We know what materialism means. There is nothing esoteric about the dollar. The primary duty is to wrestle with the naked earth. What, however, is

this perplexing racial diversity to express? Go into the church courts, the synod, the general assemblies, and you will hear this question propounded and debated with misgiving—what is the character which will be stamped upon the Northwest?

We know that climate affects character. We know that geography affects the immortal soul. What is damnable sin in one latitude is moral and desirable in another. The Ten Commandments do not run east of Eden, and when you have the redundant date palm morality is not austere. Character is not theology; it is the man, it is the soul. Dr. Fitchitt, the editor of the Australian Review of Reviews, who spent some time in the Northwest, says that our climate is calculated to produce pessimism. He wrote that possibly on a dark day when the glorious sunshine, which floods the prairies three hundred and sixty days out of the three hundred and sixty-five, was withdrawn.

To the poor land-hungry people from old civilizations the independence they newly experience is a religion and the North has ever made for morality and piety.

But how find amid racial diversity a common aspiration? The East has thought of that. It has sent out missionaries, it has founded colleges, it has distributed literature. The mother country, not content with lending us \$500,000,000 per annum with which to develop the country on its material side, also sends us her bright young men to mould the new type in the vast Commonwealth.

The ingredients are ready for the crucible. What shall be educed from the amalgam? One finds in the smallest communities the beginning of a social life. There is a hectic gaiety which hures the dull newcomers, sad at heart, like Ruth, when "Sick for home she stood in tears amid the alien corn."

Crude pleasures are rapidly imported. Methods of living, which in their coarseness are repugnant to Anglo-Saxons, are indulged in by young communities which have not yet set up permanent canons of taste. Life is expressed on the material side. Wherever there is gregarious life there is the passion for material possession. In older civilizations the elementary struggle is over; the things have been done; the acquisitions have been accomplished and there is leisure to cultivate the soul.

The newcomer to the West has to unlearn the accent, the usages, the traditions which formed the weft and woof of life in an older civilization. Segregate him and he will be all the longer in forgetting the past. Leave him untouched by the currents of modern life and you will have a congeries of racial types and expression which might well be the despair of all earnest seekers after the strong, robust English-Canadian type which it is the business of all concerned to educe.

On the other hand let the shining steel rails pass through his settlement. Let the national school open its doors on the untilled prairie. Let the social intimations hint themselves optimistically after British-Canadian fashion. Let the Anglo-Saxon ideals of life and living find expression; and there will be conformity and assimilation. There will be a co-mingling of all the elements. There will be a common speech in times. The multiplicity of tongues will linger in the domestic circle, but one language will express the general life. The school, the church the missionary—all vital to progress, but there must be no ecclesiastical narrowness. A broad and tolerant Chris-

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