

In Quebec and the Maritime Provinces there are also good harvest prospects. Quebec had a late spring, but the weather has since been most favourable. Nova Scotia will have the largest harvest in a decade.

In Manitoba the total area under crop this year is just 5,000,000 acres, or 150,000 acres more than last year. About one-half of this is under wheat. If the present favourable conditions continue, Manitoba will have the greatest crop in its history.

Saskatchewan's crop area for 1908 is estimated at 3,787,000 acres as against 3,057,000 last year. This is a considerable increase though but a small percentage of the total provincial area of 86,826,000 acres. About two-thirds of the crop area is in wheat. The increase is about evenly divided between wheat and oats. Like Alberta and Manitoba, Saskatchewan will have a record crop, due to increased acreage, early spring, and plentiful June rains. The grain has grown slowly but this means strong, deep roots.

On the whole, Canada will have a greater harvest than any already on record. This means that the autumn of 1908 will do much to make up for the lazy business conditions of the first half of the year.

THE ENLARGING OF ONTARIO

ONTARIO is being steadily and surely enlarged. The other day the Canadian Pacific opened a new railway line from Toronto to Sudbury and last week the Canadian Northern followed suit. Portions of these two lines were completed and operated last year, but only recently were the northern portions through the newer country brought to the final stages. The lines open up a very large district lying between Muskoka Lakes on the south, the Grand Trunk's North Bay line on the east and the Georgian Bay on the west. What is equally important, they bring these two railways into more intimate connection with the Georgian Bay and its increasing traffic in wheat, lumber, ore and fish. While the C. P. R. line was designed primarily as a short route to Winnipeg, via Sudbury, the C. N. R. line seems to be more local in its purpose. The great iron ore mines at Moose Mountain are to be tapped and the ore distributed through a new harbour on Georgian Bay and a prospective smelter in Toronto.

Farther west, the Grand Trunk Pacific has laid one hundred and fifty miles of steel northwestward from Fort William. This line will open up a vast lumbering and agricultural region hitherto inaccessible.

Northward from Lake Temiskaming, the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway is pushing its twin arms towards Lake Abitibi, where it will meet the new transcontinental. This T. & N. O. has already discovered Cobalt and opened up a vast new territory where lumber is fairly plentiful and where the man with the ploughshare may yet find a firm footing.

All these railways are enlarging Ontario. The province does not need to wait upon the Dominion Government and ask for new territory to conquer. It, like Quebec, has a vast unexplored and unexploited north which will offer new opportunities to several generations of future citizens.

TERCENTENARY WEATHER

THE matter of temperature is already being discussed by those interested in the Champlain Tercentenary. It is about eleven years since Mr. Kipling wrote his playful lines about the small boy of Quebec who found his native city such a region of neck-high snowbanks, but the description is not forgotten. Canadians who are already wondering just how warm it will be near the Citadel, during the last fortnight of July, express their doubts with a lurking cheerfulness. Probably Canadians would be quite willing to suffer from ninety-six degrees in the shade, for the pure joy of having the possibilities of our July temperature impressed upon surprised Frenchmen and distinguished British representatives. There is no sight quite so gratifying to the natives of this Dominion as the perspiring visitor, who, in the months of July and August, wonders why he brought furs to a country which can do such tropical tricks in the matter of heat. Toronto rejoiced when the medical delegates found their August convention a burden and a snare and fled to iced drinks by way of relief, while they plaintively inquired if the Toronto weather were always "like this." The last weeks of July may be telling torrid tales in old Quebec, but Canadians will have the comfort of knowing that it will be warmly impressed upon all-comers that the City of Champlain belongs to a country which has sunshine to spare.

CANADA'S IMMIGRATION POLICY

CANADA is willing to do her share in the work of Empire, and for this reason she is pursuing an immigration policy which is easily explained, and just as easily justified on economic grounds.

In the first place there must be a clear recognition that there are two requirements, producing classes and labouring classes. Canada must attend to the first before she can justify attention to the second. There are in this country illimitable production possibilities in the vast areas of unoccupied agricultural lands. Only a small percentage of the total arable land is yet taken up. To extend the area of cultivation is the prime necessity. To make these lands productive it is necessary that there should be a great increase in the producing population working in the soil. When this is accomplished and not until then will there be an increased demand for industrial classes whose support is mainly due to the producing population. Hence Canada's immigration policy is directed mainly towards the securing of prospective farmers and those who anticipate living by farm labour. To this end, the immigration department is bending all its energies. The cry is "Farmers Wanted."

The Empire's task is to find within the Empire the proper places for all its people. In Great Britain there is a tendency to crowd into the cities. If these country people would migrate direct from rural Britain to rural Canada, the burdens of Liverpool, London and other cities would be alleviated. These people are accustomed to outdoor life and they may have it here under most favourable conditions and with most alluring prospects. Their migration to Canada would be of local as well as imperial advantage. It would be much better that the farmer and farm labourer should go out to a colony where land is plentiful than that he should crowd into already over-crowded cities where he may displace some one equally ambitious and needy or may fail to find a position which will enable him and his family to live properly.

With respect to the industrial classes there is a primary difference. While the demand for farmers is continuous and constant because the land is always there and always waiting, the demand for industrial workers varies according to commercial conditions and financial situations. For the last few months, the conditions have been such that there has been a surplus supply of industrial labour in most Canadian centres of population. All classes of labourers may enter Canada at will, but so many industrial workers have taken advantage of this opportunity that the market has been temporarily glutted and an "unemployed" problem has arisen. It is well that intending immigrants should know of this situation. It is but kindness to let them know that this is not an opportune season for their migration to a country well supplied with mechanics. If they come with a full knowledge of the facts they must bear the responsibility of adding difficulty to difficulty and run the risk of waiting some time before industrial recuperation and development provide profitable employment for them.

As the filling up of the unoccupied areas proceeds, there will be an increased demand for industrial workers. It will then be in the interests of Canadian industry that these should be supplied. However, to induce an industrial immigrant to change his location now without improving his condition would not be in the interest of the immigrant nor of the nation as a whole.

Until the equilibrium of the two classes is again reached, it is advisable that Canada should direct all its energies towards the securing of producing classes. There is room in all the provinces for more agricultural workers. In the newer provinces the demand and the opportunities are greatest. Every effort is being put forth that the populating of these new regions shall proceed rapidly, rationally and with the greatest advantage to the new arrivals. New surveys, new trails, new railways, new land offices, full and up-to-date information in the hands of all immigration officials—these are some items in the work.

It is well that intending immigrants and persons or organisations desiring to help in this work, should clearly understand this position. Because there are unemployed persons in large numbers in the great centres of population of Great Britain is not sufficient reason in itself for transferring these people to the somewhat congested labour markets of Canada. Such a transfer, if it assumed any large proportions at the present time, would but aggravate the situation. Those desiring to relieve the tension in Great Britain may best accomplish their purpose by recognising that Canada's great need is agricultural workers. For these there is a continuous and unfaltering demand as well as magnificent and unusual opportunity.