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### EDITORIAL.

#### Some Immigration Issues.

The statesman was clear-sighted who declared that the Twentieth was to be the century of Canada. For this there is substantial reason in our areas of fertile unoccupied land, undeveloped timber, mining and fishing resources, railway-building and manufacturing, favorable climate, equitable laws and social conditions, while other lands are becoming less attractive in these respects, or are not so conveniently situated. In what direction are the eyes of the people of Great Britain turned to-day? In what outlying portion of the Empire are her hopes most fondly centered? To what quarter of King Edward's "Dominions beyond the Seas" do his congested millions turn with greatest hope of fair opportunities in the things which they esteem good? Is it to India? No. For there the problem of existence and success are more terrible and doubtful than at home. In that trinity of evils—caste, famine and heathenism—she realizes to the full the magnitude of the white man's burden. It is not in drouth-smitten Australia, whose gold-fever long since spent itself, nor in far-distant New Zealand, good but circumscribed, nor yet in blood-purchased South Africa, which the taxpayer and working men, looking for opportunity and a home of their own, alike regard with distrust? To what land beneath the British flag could they turn but Canada? There is none other.

Along the nine miles of docks at Liverpool it is "Canada" this and "Canadian" that at frequent intervals, and about London the billboards tell the story of Canadian cheese and bacon, and in the emigration and "booking" offices the only place that's asked about is Canada. In England there is no passport equal to the Maple Leaf. Our British Preferential Tariff was a taking move, but on all sides in England, to this day, there is the liveliest appreciation of the sending of the Canadian contingent to aid in the South African struggle. It was a most permanent and favorable advertisement of Canada.

Little wonder, then, that the full tide of British emigration, along with capital, should set in towards Canada, the land of opportunity and security under the old flag. This will be infinitely better for us than the alien riffraff of Europe. Instead of reckless bonusing, with opportunities for graft, the time has come when Canada can afford to discriminate in the matter of emigrants. Already a few lots of the obviously unfit are being deported, chiefly foreigners who from disease or other causes are unable to support themselves. Canada has a right to protect itself and its future from degenerates. And we must candidly admit, after a careful enquiry into the subject among the various agencies through which the emigration propaganda is being carried on, that there is no general disposition in Britain to make Canada a dumping ground; but inexperienced organizations are dabbling at it from time to time, and their efforts will require sharp oversight. England has problems of populations drifting into slums, workhouses, casual wards, hopeless prisons and other semi-hells, as they are aptly described by General Booth, of the Salvation Army, which has done more for the regeneration of the people in the past quarter century than any other organized agency. England is not shirking, and she should not shirk these problems

nor shift them onto Canada so long as she tolerates the causes that produce such effects. But we are part of the Empire, just as much as England is, and we belong to the brotherhood of man, and are in a position to do a fair share for the regeneration of the race. If we get immigrants of good average honesty, industry, sobriety, truth and health, we should be able to do the rest for them, even if their pockets are comparatively empty when they come.

Somebody will ask, has Great Britain the population to spare? In the ten years from 1891 to 1901, she made a net increase, allowing for deaths, of over 3,700,000, so that she could spare 370,000 a year for Canada and the United States, and still maintain a normal population of over 43,000,000.

A word to the immigrant: If well advised, they will not expect, even in favored Canada, to drop into a bed of roses, and should be prepared to put up with some things which are different from the Old Land for the better opportunities and freedom of the new. How few of the thousands who do come have real cause for complaint, or ever consent to return to the wretched class distinctions, hard work and poor pay that prevail in the motherland?

On the other hand, there are a few things which this country should do.

First of all, treat the immigrant with fairness and consideration as a stranger in a strange land.

In the next place, we, as farmers, should pursue a system of farming that will provide work the year round. For this, a system of mixed farming or live-stock husbandry, including cattle-feeding and dairying, is best, paying special attention to that branch for which the farm is best adapted. This will sustain the soil and more people in comfort upon it. It is simply folly in Ontario and other Provinces to expect that farm help will be available under the old system of five or six months' summer work. The consequence is that the help drift off at other seasons to town or city, and stay there.

Again, thousands of men with wives and families in the British Isles would gladly exchange their present undesirable conditions for life on Canadian farms, if they could secure cottages, with a bit of garden land attached, in which to live and be assured of regular employment the year round. Settled in a comfortable farm home, with school and other privileges for their children, free from the irksome conditions of the land they left, they would be contented, and less disposed to shift about than unmarried youths who, while getting experience, are far from being the most satisfactory class of farm help. We profess great admiration for British stability. Let us make it a characteristic of our farming plans and operations.

To the Government we have one admonition, in conclusion: By your laws and administration preserve this land as a tolerable one for the tiller of the soil. Do not tax the farmer off the land by tariffs or transportation charges, and drive population into congested cities. One of the curses that afflicts England to-day is conditions that separate the people from the soil, massing them in vice-breeding centers where the processes of national degeneration swiftly run their course. If, in Canada, we sow the follies of the past, we shall, sooner or later, most assuredly pay the penalty. We are writing our own history. In no way can we make our material future more secure than by preserving agriculture and the wholesome conditions of country life for a large proportion of the people.

#### A Pest Turned to Profit.

Failing in the effort to exterminate the rabbit pest, one of the curses of Australian agriculture, he has been turned to good account as an article of food for export to England. Like all other frozen meats, the rabbit does not command the highest price, but he is handled at a profit, and supplies a wholesome change in diet not otherwise obtainable by a large element of the population in England. Good examples of frozen rabbits may be seen in such cold-storage warehouses as those of the Bootle and River Plate Companies in Liverpool. The entrails are removed, but the fur is not, and they are packed 24 in the slatted crate, cheaply constructed of wood. The trade extends chiefly from August to December, and some idea of its magnitude will be gathered from the fact that one steamer will carry from Australia to England as many as 50,000 crates of refrigerated bunnies. They are sold for about 20 cents per rabbit in the shops. This trade is a very good example of the resourcefulness of the Anglo-Saxon in turning a pest into a profit.

#### Our Maritime Letter.

The fact that the Agenda Paper of the annual meeting of the Maritime Board of Trade, recently held at Amherst, contained under the heading of three distinct Boards—Digby, King's and Kentville—the significant subject, "Encouragement of Sheep-raising," shows that at last the seaboard section of the Dominion is alive to the benefits and advantages which accrue from this particular branch of husbandry, in the present condition of markets for meat and wool, at least. We were at a loss to understand why the matter came before the Board of Trade and not the agricultural organizations; but, after all, those corporations are formally banded together, to advance all commercial interests, and assuredly this industry might well be classed among them. But who was behind the agitation, and what was the "encouragement" expected? We were assured on all sides that the matter had seized on the attention of Nova Scotia especially, and that there was deep interest being aroused in the movement to use large areas of that Province for sheep-raising. New Brunswick had not taken the matter up so generally, but it was also a live question there; and here in Prince Edward Island an attempt has been made to stay the general abandonment of sheep-keeping and instil a new enthusiasm into a branch of our farming which has paid us perhaps better than any other, all things considered. In the Amherst Convention, however, those sending the subject forward were not ready to discuss the question intelligently, and whilst in the abstract most of those present were ready to admit the desirability of more sheep production, yet, how this was to be best brought about, nobody seemed to know. We were sorry for this unpreparedness, and as one having the best interests of agriculture at heart, cannot too strongly deprecate the introduction of agricultural or agricultural-commercial questions at these Boards, without an exponent able and ready to take advantage of the opportunities afforded for instruction, and likely, also, to cultivate the sympathies of the business community adequately and well. We asked the question of the King's County representative, "What do you want?" and he could only say, "Better protection from dogs." That the whole sheep situation had gone to the dogs many believed, figuratively; here was the literal fulfillment of the saying. Still, we think that the dog-killing nuisance is not the only balm in Gilead. We should be easy enough within common legal remedies to regulate that; it will