

CANADA, A WORKING MAN'S HOME

INTERESTING INTERVIEW FROM THE FIVE
FREE PRESS, SATURDAY, MAY
24TH, 1902.

"Aware of the extraordinary interest at present evinced in Canada, we gladly availed ourselves of the opportunity of interviewing one of the Western farmers, who was announced to be at the place of business of Mr. James Burt, agent for the Canadian Government for Fife, last Saturday. A representative of the "Free Press" called at Mr. Burt's in the course of the day, and was introduced to Mr. Graham, who very willingly agreed to answer any questions upon Canada and its resources which might be put to him. Mr. Graham is a native of Berwickshire, and is a splendid specimen of the Scotch Canadian. He told his story in a plain, unvarnished manner, and with no attempt at embellishment.

"Press" representative—"I understand there is quite a rush to Canada just now?"

Mr. Graham—That is so. Since I left in March 10,000 Americans alone have crossed into Canada. The object of my visit here is to try and induce Scotchmen to go out to Canada. I have been out there myself for 22 years, and have never once regretted it. There is a freedom

Q. Excuse me a moment: is not this land which the Government offers, bush land requiring to be cleared, and costing a great deal for cultivation?

A. By no means. The land is as flat as this floor, and there is no bush that a plough could not cut through like cheese. The land is the richest in the world, and there are only two other soils approaching it—the silts of the Ganges and the Delta of the Nile. The land requires no manure whatever; it only need to be turned over, and has some one has said, "Tickle it with a hoe and it will laugh with a har, vest." I have been 22 years there, and have raised the finest crops imaginable and have never yet had to use manure. The straw after threshing, is simply burned.

Q. But is not the winter cold?

A. Well, I have not found it so. The temperature during winter is certainly as a rule lower than in this country, but the cold is modified by the exceeding dryness of the atmosphere. We do not know what it is to shiver out there. I have felt more cold in this country since my return than ever I felt in Canada, and I have worn the same clothes which I wore during the winter in Canada. Sometimes we have heavy snowfalls, but last winter we had no snow at all. My cattle were outside all the winter. It was the same the winter before that.

when he went out at first is now the owner of a splendid farm, and is a prosperous farmer.

Q. What about work in other branches?

A. Well, as I have said, I am especially interested in agriculture, but in Winnipeg there will this year be quite a boom in the building trade. I am told—I cannot vouch for it—that joiners are getting from 2s to 2s and 8d per hour; bricklayers get 2s and 9d per hour, and masons, when I left, were getting 2s 9d per hour. The day is a ten hours' day. A new railroad is being built between Winnipeg and Vancouver, with numerous branches in the various provinces. This will provide abundant work for unskilled laborers, and it will also, at the same time, enhance the value of land through which it passes.

Q. Are any assisted or free passage given, by the Government?

A. No, none whatever. The Government do not grant assisted passage to any colony.

Q. I noticed an advertisement about partly assisted passengers?

A. That is so, but it is not the Government who are doing it. My opinion is that a man is far better to pay his own way out, then he is absolutely free to make his bargain on arriving in Canada. If you accept assistance in the way of part

about Canada:—"No one who has had the privilege of enjoying the experience which we had during our tour could fail to be struck with one all prevailing and pressing demand—the want of population. Even in the oldest of our colonies (Canada) there was abundant signs of this want. There are great tracts of country yet unexplored, hidden wealth calling for development, vast expanse of virgin soil ready to yield profitable returns to settlers; and all this can be enjoyed under conditions of healthy life, liberal laws and free institutions, in exchange for the overcrowded cities and almost hopeless struggle for existence which, alas, too often, is the lot of many in the old country. But one condition, and one only, is made by our Colonial brethren, and that is, "Send us suitable emigrants." I would go further and appeal to my countrymen at home to prove the strength of the attachment of the motherland to her best.

We understand that in the course of the day Mr. Graham was interviewed by upwards of a hundred persons, and so numerous have been inquirers since, that he is to be at Mr. Burt's to-day (Saturday).

A LARGE PURCHASE AT YORKTON,

PROMINENT LAND SPECULATORS WILL
COLONIZE IT.

Many thousand acres of Manitoba land in the vicinity of Yorkton has changed hands, as the result of the visit of two prominent capitalists to Manitoba. Mr. Wm. Wilkison, and Mr. Alex. McRea, of Des Moines, Iowa. These two gentlemen left Thursday afternoon for the south, after several days visit to the city. This was their first visit to Manitoba, although they have examined lands in central and south America and have probably visited nearly every other important agricultural centre on the globe.

Their business here was done through the Manitoba Land and Investment Co., of this city of which Mr. Frank M. Marsh is President. At the train before they left yesterday these gentlemen expressed a strong belief in the future of Canada as a great agricultural country. They said that these lands were the cheapest on earth at the present time. Mr. Wilkison remarked that Iowa was the best state in the American Union from which to get immigrants for Canada. There was practically no cheap land left in Iowa and farmers were selling their high priced land and looking for cheaper lands. The American Realty Co., of Iowa which they represented, were arranging to send in a large number of settlers to the Yorkton district. They have a regular colonization agency and will do much the same work as the Dominion Government is doing in the United States.—The Yorkton Enterprise, Friday, June 20th, 1902

He Likes the Country.

Mr. L. L. Klinefelter of Mason City, Iowa, and one of the leading Journalists of that state, is in the city, on his way to the Territories. Mr. Klinefelter is looking over the country with a view of reporting what he sees and judging from his observations, so far, the people of that state will have a good opinion given them of Western Canada. Speaking to a Sun representative, Mr. Klinefelter said that there were thousands of well-to-do farmers in Iowa and adjacent states who were looking for lands and homes. They did not want to get land where they would have to irrigate nor did they wish to cross over the Rocky Mountains. They preferred the prairie and now they had their eyes on the Northwest. Through the good work of the Dominion government and of the department of the



A SETTLER'S HOME IN CANADIAN NORTHWEST.

there that is not found in the old country. I am specially interested in agriculture, and in the territory known as "Western Canada" which holds out inducements so that a man dissatisfied with his present lot, having but little prospect of relief from burdensome taxes, from unproductive farms and excessive rents, with no hope of ever owning a home that he may call his own: or to men who live in a congested district, his family grown up, his sons and daughters approaching manhood and womanhood, and he but little in the way of temporal acquisitions. The Dominion of Canada offers to every head of family, male or female, and male who is 18 years of age or over, a homestead containing 160 acres of land, in the province of Manitoba and in the Territories of Saskatchewan, Alberta and Assiniboia. The "letters patent" from the crown for such homesteads are granted upon payment of a fee of £2, and after compliance with the provisions of residence and the cultivation of the homestead by the settler, for six months, at least, in each year for three years. The patent is an absolute title, free from all other costs, charges and expenses. The object of the Government in granting a patent only after three years and six months' residence each year on the ground is for the purpose, the laudable purpose, of preventing speculation in land. What the Government want is a race resident on the soil.

Q. But is not your summer very short, the winter beginning in October?

A. No. On the contrary, our summer is long. Spring begins at the end of March, or early April, and is followed immediately by summer, while October is the finest month of the year, and (holding up his pipe) there is not a cloud the size of that during the whole month of October. The air is warm—not too warm—it is what we call an Indian summer. Winter does not begin until the end of November, sometimes not till 15th of December. I cannot understand young men, especially farm servants, staying on in the old country, when they can do so well in Canada. An experienced farm servant will get at least £40 per annum, with board and lodgings; and good board it is too. There are no worries there. The farm servant sits at the same table as the farmer, and gets the same food as he does, and occupies rooms in the farm house. While working for a master he can, at the expense of a few dollars, get the land for his homestead brought into cultivation, and in a short time assume the position of a Canadian farmer himself. Young men, even with no experience in farming, I would advise to go into agriculture. They can easily get work on a farm. They require to pay no premium; board and lodgings will be found for them, and a small salary obtained for the first year. Many a man who knew nothing about farming

of the passage money being paid you are bound to work to the man engaging you for twelve months, whether you like the situation or not. My own advice is, pay your own way out, take a trial engagement for a month, and make your bargain. There is not any difficulty whatever in getting employment.

Q. What about female labor?

A. As to female domestic servants there is a great demand for them, and good wages are paid. Special provision is made for their welfare, and no mother need fear allowing her daughter to go to Canada. Mr. Burt has a letter from a young woman who went out to Manitoba in March. She says: "I have \$12.50 per month, the people are very nice. I love the country and have quite a nice time of it." \$12.50 for a month's work, £31 5s a year.

Q. What is the fare to Winnipeg?

A. Well, from Glasgow it is £8, steerage and £9 second cabin. An additional 10s will amply pay for food on the railroad between Montreal and Winnipeg.

Q. Thanks for your courtesy in giving me so much of your valuable time. You almost persuade me to take a trip west myself.

A. You could do no better. I take out a party on the "Sardinian" on the 7th of June, and from what Mr. Burt tells me, you are sure to have plenty of company if you go. Before you go, might I call your attention to what the Prince of Wales said