

# THE CANADIAN Illustrated News.

HAMILTON, MAY 30, 1863.

## IN BRITAIN THE CRY IS—CANADA!

WHAT WILL CANADA DO TO PROVIDE FOR THE PEOPLE WHO COME?

In Britain the cry is, 'to Canada!' This Province can take tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, and has room for millions. But how are the people to be received? how provided for until the land they may occupy, yields them sustenance and reward? This is one of a series of articles in which we shall treat this great subject minutely and comprehensively. In some of the mother country papers we observe such items as the following:

'The Edinburgh Committee for sending emigrants from the Isle of Skye have had six hundred names sent in.'

'At Selkirk a Committee has been formed to assist emigrants by loan, and has been well supported.'

'An Emigration Society has been formed at Carlisle, and five hundred persons are preparing to leave for Canada. A large number are also emigrating from Warwickshire.'

North Warwickshire includes the ribbon-weaving and watch-making city of Coventry; and such hives of deranged industry as the towns of Atherton, and Nuneaton. Mr. William Croker, Honorary Secretary to the Manchester Unemployed Operatives' Emigration Association, wrote on the 24th of April to the London Times, and his letter appeared in that journal on the 30th. He said:

'The unemployed operatives of this city have formed themselves into a society for the purpose of emigrating to Canada. In a few weeks one thousand persons have enrolled themselves on the books, and from the small pittance doled out weekly to them they subscribe all they can to the furtherance of their object. It has been said by some of the public papers that the Lancashire operative prefers a 'pauper's penny' to the shilling he has to work for; but sir, I think that the fact of a society like this springing up among themselves is a practical refutation of this calumny. The Government of the country has now refused to do anything for us, we have only ourselves to trust to; it remains to be seen whether we must stand or fall by our own exertions alone. The Committee of this Association have desired me to respectfully request your notice, and to ask a favorable word from you, knowing that we are in the right.'

Mr. A. C. Buchanan, Canadian government agent in Liverpool, has published letters from persons who at his instance are inducing or have been asked to induce emigrants to come to Canada. One a Scotchman, who, by the expedient he suggests might be taken for anything but a native of Scotland, suggests that the government of this Province should provide stereoscopic views of Canadian scenery to be converted into popular exhibitions in Scotland. We do not pronounce these as altogether futile. But views of the scenery and industry, with letter press descriptions of the actual history of settlers and of industrial operations, as we are giving them in the Canadian Illustrated News, are greatly more suggestive, and instructive to those who in the old country are inclined to emigrate, but who may be uncertain when to move, or where to go.

The inducement for emigrants to prefer the Western United States rather than Canada, has been of late years, before the last and present seasons of internal war, that they obtained a location of land to be paid for at a distant date, and had working implements and food provided for one or two years, as might be required. The State was store-keeper and creditor, and the prices of implements, seed and provisions were only prime cost—the terms of repayment distant and easy.

Let special notice be taken that we say, 'in years before last season and the present,' because now, there is no safety for any British born subject in any of the United States. The President's latest proclamation defining who are and who are not liable to be drafted

for military service amounts practically to waste paper and deception. We, of the Canadian Illustrated News, tell British emigrants from manifold experience, that they cannot now live and work in any State within the Federal union and refuse military service. No British Consul nor Ambassador, nor the President's proclamation of exemption, can protect them from that social and local persecution which drives them from their work; which makes their lives intolerable; which hunts them from place to place like distempered dogs, if they refuse to enter the military service. Persecution little short of death, and in many parts of the States more horrible than death, awaits every man newly arrived from Britain, or going out of Canada into the States, who declines to declare himself an intending American citizen, by which he becomes liable to be drafted. Such men are utterly helpless. They may offer to make oath that they never claimed to be, nor expressed an intention of being American citizens. But dozens, or scores, or hundreds, will swear to the contrary against them. And if they succeed in establishing their position of non-citizenship, they are hunted out of the country, accounting themselves fortunate if they reach Canada uninjured in life and limb. Canada swarms with these, and with native born American fugitives now; the latter from the South and from the North; from the East and from the West. A large proportion of them are unemployed, or but half employed. Well educated young men—Englishmen out of your own city of Manchester, Mr. Croker, and skilled mechanics are at this time working at any menial or laboring work they can get a chance of, a day or two days in the week, to get crusts of dry bread to eat. Immigrants are crowding into this Province from ships by Quebec, from ships by New York, and across the St. Lawrence below the lakes; across Niagara and the lakes in the centre; and across the river Detroit in the West, driven out of the States, because they being British, refuse to enlist and go to the war, or refuse the hazards of being drafted. The British who stand the hazard of the ballot are drawn to a man. That precious 'institution'—the American ballot—allows not one 'Britisher' to escape the conscription for the battle field.

What is to be done? When the British military colonists of 1816 and 1817, and the Glasgow and Paisley weaver emigrants of 1820 and 1821, came to Canada in large numbers, 4,000 of the latter settled in central Canada in the forest where now are the thriving counties of Lanark and Renfrew, made what they are by them—the British government of that time gave them implements of work, and seed, and from one to two years provisions. (See letters by Alexander Somerville, the 'Whistler at the Plough' in Nos. 12 and 13, and subsequent issues of the Canadian Illustrated News.) We now propose, through this journal, and will not cease to urge on the authorities of Canada, that similar provision be at once made for the distressed Lancashire, Scottish, Irish, and other people seeking homes in this Land of Promise, glorious Canada, in 1863.

We propose that the Canadian government shall at once allot certain tracts of forest land for all able bodied men, or family groups of immigrants, employing them in the first instance making roads in the forest at wages, which simply means, felling trees, cross cutting, and burning the logs of timber; and thereafter, extracting as many of the roots as opens a rude carriage way. They who are unused to the axe and saw, as all are, will in some degree learn their use. When the roads are made let them have grants of fifty acre lots, or hundred acres if that standard measure of lots be still preferable. The price to be merely nominal, together with the cost of implements and provisions for one or two years. The settlers to occupy alternate lots, leaving the reserves to be sold by government for revenue, after partial settlement has augmented the value of all land abutting on the new roads, those settlers to have each the first offer of the lot next the one occupied.

At the time of first occupation government should give a bond that if certain duties are performed and payments made, the title deeds will be given to the settler at the end of five years; at which time and not sooner, a settler may sell his lot if he be so inclined. When there is much hardwood, even though the largest and best marketable timber be cut out before the allotment is made to the immigrant, the ashes will sell for more than pay expenses. Twenty dollars per acre may be had for ashes. But as the new-comers are ignorant of the manufacture of pearl ashes, and will be far from a cash market, government should send agents to the several districts to instruct the strangers how to work, and to purchase their ashes, giving them in the first or sec-

ond or third year before a sufficiency of provisions are raised on the imperfectly cleared lot, credit for food and clothing at the government stores in payment of the ashes.—Government agents will readily find means of carrying that product to a ready-money market when the settler could not.

It is a natural and easy question to ask, why is not this, or some larger and more generous scheme put in operation to people the wastes of Canada, and provide homes for the distressed operatives of the mother country? The reason why that is not done is similar to the reason why the British government does not send the unemployed people to this Province at the public expense. The capitalists, mill-owners and land-owners of Britain control the government, and they assume that mills and land will be worthless without a working population. They do not expect the factories to be always without cotton, and will not therefore send the workers away. They will retain them as paupers rather than lose them.

In Canada, the democracy, the mass of the people are the owners of the land, houses, and rural property. They rule the government; they make and unmake Ministries. Nearly every man has land absolutely his own, or on shares paid up or partly paid. All that self-interested mass of Canadian democracy resembles landed proprietors or the mill-owning capitalists of the old country. Each wants the newly arriving immigrant to buy his land, which he holds speculatively for that object; or he wants the new-comer to work on it for a term of years for bare food, and liable to be displaced at any time when the land and the improvements find a cash purchaser. He does not want new-comers to be located on land of their own at the public expense.

Most of the land companies and individual proprietors in this Province are alike sordid; and as regards the future population and well-being of the country, they are not only selfish and avaricious but purblind, un-patriotic, suicidal. Americans are settling thickly along the whole frontier States opposite Canada, and Red River Territory, by the encouragement given to emigrants before the reversal of policy through war; while Canada remains thinly peopled, or in vast regions wholly waste. The result to follow is as inevitable as death, if the wastes be not soon peopled, and if the non-reflecting, self-governing democracy of Canada do not organize a defensive military force other than the present handful of Militia Volunteers; that result, inevitable as death, is that America will invade Canada and confiscate all property in houses and land from the weeping widows and children whose husbands and fathers will fall in thousands and tens of thousands, in the battles to which they will heroically rush, in multitudes, unorganized and unmilitary.

A comprehensive system of military organization for defence is indispensable. A rational and generous system for inviting a large population to come and occupy the unpeopled wastes, and for providing the strangers with implements, food, shelter and clothing, while future prosperity is being sown and reaped,—these changes in Provincial government policy may save Canada.

Operatives of Lancashire! through many years, and in various ways has he, who now addresses you in this the most popular and widely influential weekly journal of the Province of Canada, taken side with your struggles, in the books of which he is author, in the newspapers to which he was long a well-known contributor. Many of you remember the 'Whistler at the Plough.' The fundamental principle of his multifarious works was, as it will continue to be in the literary department of the Canadian Illustrated News, of which he has now editorial control, this:

'The human being is the primary constituent of national wealth; and the guardianship of human happiness is the primary function of any political economy worthy of being called a conservative science.'

The proprietor of this journal, Mr. W. A. Ferguson, is the son of an old United Empire Loyalist, of the county of Glengarry, a district of Central Canada, famed in Provincial history for its loyalty to conservative order and British connection. He was born in Canada; knows its natural resources, its capacities, its wants, and the temper of its people. He instructs his Editor to bid you come in thousands, year by year, but not as you are coming now to perish before the Provincial Government makes provision to locate you on land and keep you alive. We have people perishing to death, houseless and hungry, in greater proportionate numbers in Canada than in England. We have not even a poor law in this Province. Prepare to come, but in the name of Heaven refrain from coming in any great number until

public reason is aroused in Canada to provide for you. We hope soon to publish in the Canadian Illustrated News detailed information as to where free grants of land, and land for sale on easy terms are located. We have given and will continue artistic and written pictures of Canadian industry.

On the alleged physical disqualification of Factory operatives for rough work in the Canadian 'bush,' it is a groundless objection. Canada infuses vigor and a new life into all strangers who arrive without serious organic disease, and who engage in the physical exercises of labor with a sufficiency of wholesome food, with warm clothing for winter. A sufficiency of food implies larger quantities of flesh meat than are commonly eaten in England; greatly more than were ever seen on a working man's table in Ireland or rural parts of Scotland. With abundant food, no stimulant is requisite.—The whisky of the country is bad in quality and dangerous in the extreme. The materials for food in the 'bush' are at first chiefly flour for bread and puddings; salted pork; tea and sugar or molasses.

The military colonists, have not generally succeeded well in Canada. But in their neighborhood in the Perth settlement, the Glasgow Weaver colonists, who did not desert their land under pressure of early difficulties, have succeeded well. Here is a passage from one of Somerville's 'Letters from Canada,' published in the Canadian Illustrated News, February 7, 1863, relating to the handloom weavers of 1820:

'In 1823, the second year after arrival in Canada, McLellan with others, bearing reports of ready money being obtainable in the State of New York, went thither to labor on the Oswego Canal. When they had worked three months there was no money; six months, no money; contractors who hired them disappeared, and there was no law to compel payment of wages. Some men traveled further into the States; others returned to Scotland, and never more set foot in the Canadian wilderness, about which the 'aristocratic government that had deceived them with bad tools and bad land,' they told their dismal story. Never again saw the woodland homesteads, which though in parts, rude and rocky, are lovely as a paradise in summer and bountiful in harvest; while in winter they are awakened to life by social intercourse and by the music of the tinkling travelling bells; the bells and merry voices floating on the healthful breezes, as in rapidly going sleighs, carriages, or cutters, with fleet footed horses, all their own, they dart along the ice on the Rideau lake, and the frozen rivers, careering over fields and fences on high level plains of sparkling snow.'

'McLellan (who had been secretary to the Glasgow Emigration Society in 1820, and who has long since like all who remained in the settlement been proprietor of a lauded estate) returned from the Oswego canal without money, and found his wife and three children with only one day's food left from the scanty sheaves of the first year's wheat. But she and the eldest child, who was only nine years old had planted potatoes in every available spot among the tree stumps. 'And how many do you think we took out of the ground, the fruit of that boy's work and mine?' that was her question to me at the distance of thirty-seven years. 'I cannot even make a guess.' 'Well, we had three hundred and seventy bushels of good potatoes.' 'It was kindly land where there were no rocks; yes it was blessed land to us. We at last had a fine home on it and orchard. I had a family of eleven children and one of my daughters is the mother of fourteen.'

'Mr. McLellan said: 'We thought it hard that government withheld the titles to our land for so many years; but in the end it was for our good. If we could have sold out and left the land many would have left this country, I do believe. Before the Reciprocity Act with America and the Railroads brought ready money buyers to our doors, I used to have cattle on my farm that I did not know what to do with. We had routh of every thing but money. I have killed a quoy or a stot to sell the skin for taxes. I have said to it 'poor beast! I am loath to kill ye, we dinna need ye to eat, we have plenty of other meat; but must kill ye for the taxes.' That is what I have said time and time again. All is changed now; we have ready money for everything that there is to sell.'

The establishment of banks has also, in union with railway and steamboat facilities for exportation of produce, promoted the Canadian farmer's prosperity. See the memoir of Isaac Buchanan, the Merchant Prince and Pioneer of Upper Canada, on other pages of this paper, and learn how the price of wheat has been doubled.