



The WAY of LETTERS

IT is a dull month just now that does not record the publication of a new book on Canada. One of the latest in this connection is entitled "The Golden Land," by Harold Copping. It is a "true story of British settlers in Canada." We believe that it is true, and, while it does not comprehend the whole story of British settlers in this country, it is a spicy, observant, faithful account of what one man encountered in the course of an earnest endeavour to experience all that the average emigrant from the British Isles undergoes from the time of his embarkation at Liverpool until his final disposition in the Canadian West. This book is interesting to Canadians, because it gives the impressions of one who as journalist has been trained to receive impressions in an open and unbiased manner. It is doubly interesting to the one who intends to emigrate, but it not only gives him a most entertaining account of what one is likely to encounter, but it offers as well much inoffensive advice and suggestion. The author is enthusiastic over the prospects of settlement in Canada, but he is not extravagant, and there is every evidence that he has gone about with his eyes and ears open and made honest effort to get at the truth, with the result that the

book will serve as an incitement to many Old Country lads to make their way to this land of opportunity. Great praise is given to the work done by the Government in looking to the needs and comfort of prospective settlers and in assisting to locate intelligently. Naturally, a writer coming from England to Canada will wish to make comparison, and Mr. Copping frequently indulges this wish. For instance, he says:

"Social conditions in Canada are, in truth, a delightful burlesque of those in England. In my native land one has to plead and wait and scheme for opportunities to earn small wages. But I had not been an hour on Canadian soil before there came a tempting financial offer for my services as a house decorator. And this was but the first of many unsought opportunities to engage in remunerative toil. True, no one stopped me in the street and offered to hire me as a journalist or author; but at any moment I could have got my three dollars a day if only in response to eager solicitation, I would turn over a new leaf and become a railroad navy or farm hand."

The author was accompanied in his travels by his artist brother, Harold Copping. Twenty-four full-page illustrations in colours, the work of the brother, add greatly to the attractiveness of the book. These drawings are almost as realistic as photographs, while they have the added merit of colour. (London: Hodder & Stough-