

soil or the Canadian mind, though thoroughly Canadian in desire and sentiment. The list is remarkably and painfully small, so small indeed as to invite comparison with a former state of things, in this respect, when the parliament and legislatures of Canada rejoiced in the possession of men of the mental calibre of a Hogan, a Young, a Chauveau, a Christie, a Parent, a Galt, a Cameron, a Wakefield, a Derbishire, a Morris, a McDougall, a Fabre, a Harrison, a Chamberlin, a Howe, a Huntington, a Haliburton, and a McGee.

HENRY J. MORGAN.

Ottawa, Dec. 29th, 1893.

CHANCES OF SUCCESS.*

Erastus Wiman is a typical American. His Canadian antecedents may have helped to supply a sound basis for the qualities which have shown themselves in his career, but those qualities are none the less typical of the rushing, booming, speculative, energetic American business man. To him—and this book displays his characteristics with accuracy—nothing has been too small or unimportant in appearance to handle if it presented the slightest opportunity of making money; nothing too large or multifarious in its demands upon ability and energy. Self-confidence and pluck speak upon every page and the vanity which some reviewers have harshly criticised is hardly visible excepting as a part of that personal assurance which was absolutely essential in the life he led. Whether handling the “nickel-in-the-slot” machine; placing the type-setting machine upon its road to success and popular appreciation, or going to England with the control of \$8,000,000 for the purpose of organizing a salt-combine, Mr. Wiman always seems to have trusted his own judgment, and then gone ahead.

Such a spirit deserved success and he might well have enumerated amongst the chances of success before an American boy the possession of confidence in himself and lots of push, as all-important elements. It must be confessed that this book was opened with a certain prejudice. Of its being clever, there could be no doubt, but hostile criticisms had led the writer to almost expect an undue self-assertiveness and too much personal description. The opposite is the case. A few personal incidents there are, but just enough to interest the reader and make him wish for more. Indeed, had the book been more autobiographical, it would have been more interesting, and the glimpses which are given in the life of a man of many enterprises, many and varied experiences, wide and intimate acquaintance with public men, are extremely attractive. But the bulk of the work is taken up with reflections upon the conditions prevalent throughout the American continent as they appear to one whom all will admit a keen observer, and the opportunity or lack of opportunity which now and in the future presents itself to the average young man.

The basis of the future welfare of the Republic Mr. Wiman considers to be the farmer. His present situation, however, is not pleasant. “Statistics reveal a volume of indebtedness of such proportions as to startle those who consider what payment of interest means.” The aggregate population

of the cities is not any better off. “One half of them have the very narrowest ledge on which to rest for the supply of mere daily wants.” And the author finds that the condition of the average miner in the United States “is only slightly better than the worst conditions that prevail in England or even in Russia.” And then with an inconsistency curious in one so shrewd, he urges, perhaps in the next chapter or paragraph, commercial union between Canada and the States as the great factor in the future prosperity of this Dominion. But to his mind the hope of the American farmer and his assured welfare in days to come, lies in the possibility of the population becoming sufficient—and within fifteen years at the present rate of increase—to more than consume all the surplus production of the 30,000,000 who are now dependent upon agriculture for their daily support. Prices will then rise and the farmer grow rich and happy. The prospect is certainly delightful, but once more Mr. Wiman appears to over-look the application of a fact to which he frequently draws attention in the most glowing terms—the development of the great Canadian granaries. Unless he is prepared to throw his commercial union and free trade ideas to the wind and apply a McKinley tariff—much extended—against the importation of wheat, the surplus product of our vast prairies will overflow into the Republic when its days of exportation cease, and still keep down the price of grain. Nevertheless the theory is interesting.

But the book contains many theories. Mr. Wiman is a man of ideas and is not afraid to make them public. He believes, as already pointed out, that though “the power of the farmer to purchase and pay is less this year as compared with 1870 by 1,500 millions of dollars,” yet his condition will improve as his home market is increased by the growth of population, and prices are lowered by the reduction of the tariff. Protection was once useful, he thinks, but should now give way to freer conditions. Competition was once the life of trade, today it is the death of profit. Combination of capital and enterprise, economy of labour and in production, has taken its place, and in doing so, lessened the openings for young men. Concentration of effort, to his mind, is the keynote of success at the present moment, and no better opportunity exists for the young man than to devote himself to agriculture or mining. Everything else is crowded right up to the top, where there is always supposed to be room. To the man of determination, industry and adaptability there are still plenty of chances of success, but to “the young loafer,” whose highest achievement is a good game of tennis, whose chief aim is to “dawdle with a lot of girls,” the future is full of uncertainty. The flannel-trousered, cigarette-consuming young fellows are likely to be left high and dry upon the sands of time. Gold mining he especially recommends, as bringing a good profit, as having been neglected for unknown reasons, and as producing a product which can never lessen in value or lack a demand. Much good advice is summed up in this paragraph: “Get to college for a year, learn the chemistry of nature, get posted on fertilizers instead of frills, inform yourself as to implements on the farm instead of implements on the gaming table or the race track, then hire yourself out by the month for a year and honor yourself and your parents with a

period of real work and by that time you will be fitted to have a fifty acre farm, a pretty house and a pretty wife.”

To the young Canadian farmer or the son of a farmer as well as to the city aspirant for a clerkship, there is much to remember in this. The former has the practical knowledge already, but instead of going to the university after a B.A., and the bare chance of a future situation as teacher or newspaper reporter or what not, how much better to follow Mr. Wiman's advice and then settle down to future affluence upon a prairie farm in the great North-West. In this connection it may be said that the author consistently and continuously preaches his pet doctrine of commercial relations with Canada in referring to the general continental conditions. But he does it fairly and squarely. No one is more opposed to his policy than the writer of these lines, yet the book is one which may be commended to Canadians without fear of any ill effect upon their national convictions, for the simple reason that he states the problem fully and does not blink the main issues by superficial talk regarding free trade. Commercial union Mr. Wiman wants, but it must, in his opinion, to be practicable, include complete freedom of trade between the two countries, assimilation of their external tariffs, discrimination against England and similar excise laws. There is no danger to Canadian autonomy or loyalty in the open presentation of such a proposal, because it stands no chance of acceptance, but the risk comes from those who prate loyalty and preach insidiously doctrines which mean nothing but annexation when critically examined.

Still the book is not political as a whole. Mr. Wiman treats of a thousand and one things, each interesting in itself. He thinks the American national debt has not been really paid off in part, but shifted through taxation to the backs of the farmers, who now pay an interest equal to that of the old-time debt. He furnishes a striking chapter descriptive of the private meetings held between Sir Richard Cartwright, Hon. J. W. Longley, Mr. Blaine, Mr. Reed, himself and others, at the home of Congressman Hill—then chairman of the Ways and Means Committee at Washington—just prior to the late Dominion elections. His admissions certainly go a long way to prove the Conservative allegations as to joint action between the Republican leaders at Washington and the Liberal leaders here. He dwells upon the great advantage of advertising in every line of life and narrates how he obtained immense publicity and benefit for certain projects—business and political—by giving opportune banquets. He denounces intemperance and the liquor traffic; speaks of the competition of women in various walks of life as one of the modern limitations to success, and upon the whole seems to think that opportunity has been much restricted, difficulties greatly enhanced, and the Chances of Success much minimized during the last twenty years. As to himself and others, he thinks “it is the rounded life of a man that must form the basis of the estimate of his success or failure.” And we can sincerely hope in concluding this necessarily imperfect sketch of an interesting book, that like the farmer in whose future he so sincerely believes, Mr. Wiman may himself in all financial matters and political ambitions restricted to the United States, again be “on top.” If energy and enterprise will do it, as the pres-

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