

The Advertiser

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LONDON - CANADA.JOHN CAMERON, President and
Man. Dir.God's in His heaven.
All's right with the world.
—Browning.

London, Wednesday, February 12.

Immigrants for Our Vacant
Lands.

In view of the enormous sum of money which has been spent in recent years in the management of the Dominion, the immigration returns for last year, contained in the report of the Dominion Minister of the Interior, are very disappointing. Counting every immigrant who came, Mr. Daly makes out that 23,363 persons arrived in Canada—a decrease of 2,290, when compared with the previous year. Of this number 17,231 declared their intentions of becoming residents of the Dominion. The list includes several hundred waifs and strays, picked up in old world cities by professional philanthropists, and sent to Canada so as to lighten the burden of boards of guardians. For these, the taxpayers of the country paid a substantial bonus per head.

The homestead entries last year numbered 2,114, against 2,583 during the previous year. Of the homesteaders over one-third went from Eastern Canada and the United States, the number being 527 Canadians, 432 from the United States, 261 English, 23 Irish, 76 Scotch, 81 French, 67 Russian, etc. The foreign immigration, therefore, to bring in which the Government has kept Sir Charles Tupper and his expensive retinue in Great Britain and Senator Fabre in France, to say nothing of the huge expenditures in other ways, has been disappointingly small.

While settlement has not been proceeding according to promise, and though millions of acres surveyed are yet without settlement, the Government last year kept officers employed surveying additional territory to the extent of 406,240 acres. We have been told that the thrifty Indian has dug up the survey stakes in many back townships and turned them to account either as firewood or as articles of barter. Thus much of the far away surveys will have to be done over again before the land can be settled. It may be, however, that the Canadian taxpayer cares not how much money is spent—rather enjoys high taxation as a principle.

There is a disposition in the Northwest to demand better methods for settling the country, and one wonders that it has not been expressed in unequivocal terms long before now. The taxpayers of Canada spent a straight three millions of dollars for promoting immigration alone in the ten years between 1881 and 1891, and the Department of Agriculture insisted that for this money it brought into the Dominion in that period 886,000 immigrants. But when the census was taken in 1891, it was found that these 886,000 immigrants along with 500,000 of the natural increase in the population of Canada had disappeared.

There has virtually been no improvement since 1891, and no immigration commensurate with the needs of a new country like the Northwest. But the expenditure has gone on, and the Tupperian palace in England and its drain on the public purse has been maintained.

How is a change for the better to be effected? If the necessities of the situation are properly set forth at the immigration convention called to be held in Winnipeg on the 27th and 28th inst., some progress towards improvement may soon take place. The object of this convention is to secure that every special interest and locality from Port Arthur westward shall be represented in order that all the advantages possessed by each may be presented to home-seekers. It will be the duty of the convention to form some plan which will most effectually advertise the Canadian Northwest as a desirable field for settlement by all classes of immigrants, and secure at an early date the necessary increase to our population.

We heartily wish the convention success. But we doubt if it will secure any permanent advantage to the country if a more vigorous immigration policy is not adopted at Ottawa. By this, we do not suggest that there shall be additional large expenditures of public money to coax unwilling settlers to our unsettled territories. Our view has always been that so aptly put by Principal Grant, after a recent visit to the Northwest, "Establish a right kind of policy and the right kind of men will come of their own free will." One voluntary immigrant, who will come to Canada because an old friend has written him that the conditions of life in our new land are much better than are presented in the crowded old world, is worth half a dozen immigrants hired to come to Canada, who send grumbling letters to the old country because scheming agents have presented to them an over colored picture of life in the new territories.

Let us make the conditions under

which a man can earn a living all that can fairly be desired—let us keep the new comer's taxes on necessities of life down to the lowest possible rate—let us make him contented and happy, and the necessity for organizing conventions to advertise the Northwest will soon cease: it will advertise itself in the best possible way by the agency of the settlers themselves.

By the Way.

It comes out that the phrase "splendid isolation," turned to account in describing Britain's position, was not first used by Mr. Foster, M.P., but by a newspaper editor in the St. John (N. B.) Sun. If you want a good phrase, you will generally find it in the newspapers.

Water is so scarce in the boom town of Johannesburg, South Africa, that in some boarding-houses soda water is used to wash in. Bathing is out of the question, hot and dusty though the atmosphere is. Under such conditions it is not to be wondered at that the population is restless.

It is reported by Sir Charles Tupper's friends that when he entered the House of Commons at Ottawa yesterday, and took the seat vacated for him by Mr. Foster, every one within the precincts of the chamber trembled and turned pale. They viewed the Great I.

The late Matthew Arnold, who was a far-seeing Englishman, did not like Lord Salisbury. Just before his death, when on a visit to Oxford, he wrote of the present British Premier in this wise: "Lord Salisbury presided as chancellor of the university. . . . He is a dangerous man. . . . I know of no one, indeed, more likely to provoke shocks and collisions than men like Salisbury." The question now uppermost is, will Chamberlain keep him straight?

A Cuban correspondent informs us that there are four women with Gomez, the patriot rebel chief. They are white women, one of them an American. They are the wives of some of his officers. They are dressed in masculine attire, as a pair of bloomers have never been landed in the island of Cuba. They ride horseback with Gomez's staff, and each carry a Mousier rifle and ammunition. They have taken part in several engagements, and so far have escaped being wounded. In the United States civil war, a number of women were employed as spies, and did good service on both sides. Some women take kindly to fighting.

Dr. Cassanova, of Bourges, calls attention to the dangerous qualities of cotton flannel, an article in constant use, especially in the apparel of women and children, and cites three recent cases occurring in his practice in support of his observation as to the highly inflammable nature of this fabric. It is not easily ignited by contact with a live coal, but the blaze of a match or lamp will cause it to flash like gunpowder. His warning in this matter is very timely and important. A resident of this city relates an experience of his the other morning, in which he had a narrow escape from an ignition of this description. In his shirt sleeves he was setting a match to some paper in a stove, when suddenly the flame seemed to leap up and envelop one of his arms. The shirt he wore was made of cotton flannel, and only by prompt action in extinguishing the peculiar flame did the early fire lighter escape serious injury.

Cutting the Councils

In all probability, the Ontario Legislature will, at its present session, provide for a reduction in the number of county councilors, the Government having promised a measure with that object in view.

The number of grand jurors has been reduced by one-half, and the province is yearly a good deal of money in pocket, while the public interest has not suffered in any respect.

A strong argument in favor of the reduction of county councilors is found in the fact that Ontario is now pretty well settled. The pioneer labor of settling up the lands has been largely completed in the older sections, and nearly all the work of management is now efficiently undertaken by the township boards. County bodies are necessary for the management of general county affairs, but there is absolutely no reason why any county should require a body one-half the size of the Legislature to transact the largely routine business now delegated to it.

If county councils cannot be reduced by one-half, they can certainly be reduced one-third. The saving to the taxpayers will be considerable.

Paying Off the Debt.

For its 4 per cent loan of \$100,000,000 the United States Government received \$111,378,836 97. Though the Washington authorities are at present borrowing to meet accruing liabilities, they have made a great record in past years in paying off the national debt. For the 23 years beginning with August, 1865, the reduction in the debt necessitated by the terrible four years of civil warfare, proceeded at an average rate of a little under \$63,000,000 yearly, which would be \$5,250,000 each month, \$175,000 each day, \$7,291 each hour, and \$121 each minute. But for that war debt and the \$150,000,000 a year in pensions which the conflict necessitated, the United States would be the most highly taxed country in the world—the most desirable place of

abode in civilization. The moral is to keep out of war by working to keep conditions established that will render war impossible.

Great Minds on Britain's True Policy.

The Ottawa correspondent of the Globe calls attention to a remarkable coincidence in the speeches recently delivered on the true policy of the British Empire by Sir Richard Cartwright and Right Hon. J. A. Balfour, First Lord of the British Treasury. Within 24 hours of each other those statesmen, one in Canada the other in England, gave utterance to the same sentiment respecting the true policy for Great Britain and the empire. Mr. Balfour's speech was delivered at Manchester on Jan. 15, and the language to which attention is here drawn was not included in the cabled summary of his speech. After speaking of the people of the United States as "our own flesh and blood," and of "an Anglo-Saxon patriotism" as well as an English patriotism and an imperial patriotism, he went on, according to the Times' report, as follows:

"We may be taxed with being idealists and dreamers in this matter. I would rather be an idealist and a dreamer, and I look forward with confidence to the time when our ideals will have been embodied in actual political fact. (Hear, hear.) It cannot be that those whose national roots go down into the same past as our own, who share our language, our literature, our laws, our religion—everything that makes a nation great, and who shares in substance our institutions—it cannot be that the time will come when they will feel that they and we have a common duty to perform, a common office to fulfil among the nations of the world."

Here Mr. Balfour, the leader of the greatest deliberative assembly in the world, looks forward to and hopes for a political alliance between Great Britain and the United States for the preservation of peace and the progress of civilization. Speaking in the House of Commons the next day, with the cable silent on this point, Sir Richard Cartwright used the following language: "Now, sir, I have a word or two to say on this same subject of 'splendid isolation.' For many a year, not alone in my place here, but in the Cabinets of English Ministers, I have steadfastly pointed out—I, a descendant of men who quitted the United States rather than see the English flag pulled down—that the true interest of England, the real interest of England, and the thing of all others which English and Canadian statesmen should apply themselves to, is to provide England with a true ally and the only true ally worthy of her that she can find is her own descendants in the United States. That, sir, is the true policy, that is the policy which true friends of Canada most anxiously desired to see after the heat of battle had passed away; that is the policy which Canada can help, if Canada is guided by statesmen who understand her interests and the real interests of the empire. I repeat that it is not of yesterday I have made these statements. I can well remember twenty years ago, when I was Minister of the Colonies, and I told Lord Carnarvon that this was one of the things which British statesmen would do well to lay to heart, and were I Minister of the Colonies the first thing I would do would be to paint it above my door. In 1900 there will be 180,000,000 English-speaking people on the continent of America. These are men whom England should secure as allies, and in all parts of the world, and in the power of English statesmen and of Canadian statesmen worthy of the name 'to bring about a true defensive alliance with the only nation which can really imperil the supremacy of England on the sea.'"

The coincidence of these two speeches delivered almost at the same hour by these two statesmen—Mr. Balfour and Sir Richard Cartwright—and the identity of ideas are remarkable.

THE BRITONS OF THE EAST.

One of the first reforms introduced into Formosa by the Japanese is a system of free schools—Salt Lake Tribune.

EARLY SIGNS OF GREATNESS.

Never punish a boy for making excuses. He may be an incipient statesman.—Cleveland Plaindealer.

The February table of contents of The Arena (Boston) is elaborate and varied. The article of leading position is one by Dr. Justice Walter Clark on "The Land of the Noonday Sun"—meaning Mexico. Helen Campbell asks and answers the question, "Is Woman Embodied Obstruction?" In the series of personal recollections of American poets, Whittier and Bryant are recollections by Rev. C. C. Hussey and Frank B. Sanborn. Prof. Frank Parsons contributes a discussion of the telegraph monopoly. "Madness as Portrayed by Shakespeare" is a highly interesting study, by Forbes Wilson, M.D., D. C. L. Oxon., M. R. C. P., London, Eng.

His Face was a mass of
Blotches.

But now his skin is clear as a year old babe's.

Scott's Sarsaparilla His Salvation.

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