

the United States millers must get Canadian wheat or lose much of the business they have held for twenty-five years.

Another influence at work in this direction is the recently discovered possibility of shipping wheat and flour over the Rockies for export to Mexico, South America, Japan, China and even to Europe. The C. P. R. is arranging to instal a sacking plant at Vancouver—a modern substitute for the elevator. This proves that they have found that wheat can be taken over the Rockies economically. When the new mountain grades are completed, the work will be even more cheaply done. If wheat can be moved that way, so can flour.

With 70,000 United States farmers moving into Canada in one year, with the famous millers of Minnesota moving their mills northward, it begins to look as if the West had greater possibilities than even the most sanguine of us believed. What we thought might occur in fifty years may happen within ten. With wheat at \$1.30 a bushel, even a cold, wet Spring cannot dampen our enthusiasm.



RUMOURS OF UNREST

A DISTINGUISHED Scotchman, who has held a high official position in India, visited Canada this spring and in the course of his progress through the Dominion was asked by the bright young men of the press about the unrest in India. He replied genially that he had heard more concerning it in Canada than he had known in India. Some may be skeptical about this statement, since the very man who made it was the object of a murderous attack in the capital of an Indian province. However, it may be said with reason that a little political noise travels far and is greatly magnified by distance, which seems to lend alarm, as the rumour progresses. Even Ireland is not nearly so upset as the Nationalist journals would have us believe, while it may be that there are citizens living in Constantinople having a comparatively quiet time, almost oblivious of the sleight-of-hand performances which the Young Turks are practising with the Constitution.

In fact, the state of affairs, as represented from the alarmist standpoint, is always such as to disturb the timorous. If, for instance, some far dweller in Hindostan were so unhappy as to be able to understand the columns of the Canadian press, he might be sadly misled as to the political condition of this country. The *Toronto News* would inform him that the resignation of Hon. William Pugsley would fill a long-felt want, while the *Toronto Globe* would represent that statesman as a bright and shining example of industry, intelligence and integrity. On the other hand, the foreigner would learn from the *London Advertiser* that Sir James Whitney is an enemy to the workingman and a menace to the liberties of Ontario, while the *Mail and Empire* would lead him to believe that Sir James is the noblest Roman of them all and that his word is better than any gilt-edged bonds. The gentleman in Hindostan would promptly come to the conclusion that the Dominion of Canada is a scene of political turmoil, assassination threatening in the near future. Whereas, we are a fairly contented and prosperous people, and if the rain will only cease from troubling and give the crops a chance, we shall take no thought for Sir Wilfrid, Sir James nor any other knight.

Most of the revolutions did not "go round" and most of the unrest is only a natural effervescence. Perhaps if we were living somewhere in Mars or on a ring of Saturn, this turbulent planet would look like the merriest-twinkling star of them all. If we could only get far enough away from all the dust and discussion, we should conclude that it was only dust after all, and somewhere beneath it was a firm roadway, leading to a safe habitation. As Tennyson reminds us, if we could only emigrate to some other planet,

"We should find the Earth we groan in, fairest of the evening stars."



DISTRIBUTING THE CROWN DOMAIN

SOME time ago, the Dominion Government ceased the practice of giving land grants to railway companies. It still continued to make grants to development companies, to soldiers and other private persons. Of all these grants, the least defensible was that to the South African veterans, which was an unwarranted and foolish distribution. The veterans went out and sold the lands to speculators and the genuine settler may get them now only at a greatly increased price.

It is gratifying, however, to note that the Hon. Frank Oliver, Minister of the Interior and Official Custodian of the Crown Domain, has declared against any further grants of this character. Some person was making a plea for "pioneers" and "Red River Settlers," and the minister had the courage to express his disapproval. Every citizen

who has the best interests of his country at heart will encourage this new policy. When a Minister of the Crown ventures to stand up and make denial to those who desire to see the public domain thrown away, he should get the active as well as the moral support of the better citizens.

The first step in the Conservation of our Natural Resources is the commission which the Hon. Sydney Fisher will shortly appoint under a Bill now going through Parliament. The second step is that the people should "make a noise" like those who would punish any government or any Minister of the Crown who would allow one foot of public land to go to any person who does not intend to cultivate it for his own personal use. It is a question if even our pre-emption laws are not too generous. Certainly, the grants to lumber companies and other citizens already engaged in getting wealth from the soil, should be on a distinctly commercial basis.



IN NEWFOUNDLAND

SIR ROBERT BOND may not forgive us, but we Canadians are not sorry that he has been roundly defeated. It is not that we expect Sir Edmund Morris, the new premier, to favour confederation with Canada, but we do expect that he will not try to deceive the people as to Canada's intentions. We expect that he shall tell the people of Newfoundland that we are fellow-colonials and fellow-Britishers, that we hope always to be on brotherly terms with the Newfoundlanders whether they come into Confederation or remain independent. We expect him also to help develop the commercial relations between the two countries in so far, and so far only, as it will be mutually beneficial to do so.

HO, YE OF LITTLE FAITH

CURIOUS, indeed, are the differences among Canadians as to the possibilities of their own country. The struggle between pessimism and optimism is always with us, revealing itself at sundry times and in divers manners. During the past few months, "Canadian Courier" writers have been preaching optimism to business men generally. To show that, with all our enthusiasm and faith and hope, we are still moderate, we beg to introduce the greatest optimist in Canada, Mr. R. E. Young, superintendent of railway lands.

Just one year ago, Mr. Young appeared before the "Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonisation" at Ottawa and delivered a lengthy address. He pointed out that in the Great West there were 86,000,000 acres of land which were already alienated, taken up by settlers and railway companies. About 34,000,000 more land is surveyed, but Mr. Young generously omitted that from his calculations. To make his estimate of possibilities less optimistic, he even reduced the 86 million to 65 million, to be well within the mark. This 65 million is just thirteen times 5 million, the amount of land under wheat in 1907. If the 5 million acres could produce 100,000,000 bushels of wheat, the 65 millions would produce thirteen times that if all under wheat—or 1,300,000,000 bushels per annum.

We do not ask any person to believe Mr. Young. There is the statement; take it for what it is worth. When, however, you meet a pessimist refer him to Mr. Young's address. When you read of some one who doubts the future of the three Prairie Provinces, think of Mr. Young and his figures. When you are led to wonder whether the C. P. R., the C. N. R., the G. T. P. and the Great Northern are likely to find traffic enough to justify them in having built 8,000 miles of railway in that country and in having projected several thousand miles more, think of Mr. Young's estimate.

Remember that Mr. Young's figures only apply to the surveyed portion of the West, and that to make his estimate conservative, he cut down the land available for wheat from 120 to 65 million acres. He also left out of his estimate all that vast district north of Edmonton and Prince Albert, an area larger than the entire Province of Ontario. Yet in that great region, wheat has been grown at Fort Simpson on the Mackenzie River, 900 miles north of Edmonton, at Fort Providence, at Fort Liard, Fort Vermilion, Fort Dunvegan, Fort McMurray and even at Stanley Mission, 150 miles north of Prince Albert on the Churchill River. In that unsurveyed district there are nearly one hundred million acres of land which may possibly be capable of cultivation.

In Siberia, there is a province known as Tobolsk. Its climate about corresponds to that of the Fort Simpson district, yet it contains a population of a million and a half people, who, in 1900, raised six and a half million bushels of wheat. The southern boundary of Tobolsk would, if in Canada, run about one hundred miles north of Edmonton, or about ten miles north of Athabasca Landing.

Mr. Young pointed out that "it is a very striking thing that the summer temperature of Fort Simpson, Fort Chipewyan and Winnipeg are nearly the same—that is, from the 1st June to the 20th August or thereabouts—the summer temperature would therefore be nearly the same as that of the city of Ottawa. It is hard to understand or believe that a man may be going about here in summer clothing and that if he could be transported to Fort Simpson in those months that he could wear the same clothing without discomfort."