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COMMENTS ON CURRENT EVENTS

New Colonization Schemes in Canada

THE Canadian West is filling up, just as the American West filled up some thirty or forty years ago, and colonization schemes will be on foot for the next two decades. Only a fraction of our national heritage has thus far been occupied. After all of Manitoba and the adjacent Territories has been settled, there are vast sections to the north, many times the size of England, that are as yet not only uninhabited but unexplored. There is abundant room for colonization schemes, and the more of them that are set a-going, so long as they are sound and honest, the better for Canada.

The homestead entries in Western Canada last year were over 22,000, considerably more than twice as many as the year before. As an illustration of how immigration is growing, this may be compared with the returns for 1896, only six years ago, when the homestead entries were 1,857. Among the schemes proposed by private capitalists is the development of half a million acres of arid land in Alberta, where an irrigation company has undertaken to transform a tract of waste into fertile farms. The work will be subject to the control of the Minister of Interior.

In New Ontario colonization is going

on so rapidly that not only did the provincial government find it difficult last year to keep pace in road-making, but a large pulp company, which received concessions two years ago of certain timber limits, finds now that nearly all of the territory has been located by bona fide settlers, who by agreement have the first right. In addition to the tide of immigration which is thus swiftly moving, an American syndicate has negotiated for two million acres of New Ontario land on which to locate settlers. Chicago capitalists are largely interested in this, and the settlers will be from the central and eastern states. The influx into the West from Dakota and adjacent states is expected to continue this year, having reached large proportions last summer. And already the announcement is made that a first sailing will be made on March 21 of English immigrants under the auspices of the Colonial and Continental Church Society. All this shows that Canada has entered upon an era of progress, and great developments may be looked for in the near future.

The Census and the House of Commons

THE recent census shows very plainly that Canada is growing Westward. Evidences of Western progress are numerous, but the census puts a construction upon them which is not alto-