

# The Monetary Times

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## The Monetary Times OF CANADA

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## MORE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Much is heard respecting the immigration of farmers from the United States to Canada, but little is known of what authorities in Western Canada term a strong movement of agricultural population from the Canadian West to the neighboring republic, a movement said to comprise many of our best farmers. The total emigration from Canada to the United States during the year ended June 30th amounted to 150,000 people. Mr. John Clark, the immigration commissioner of the United States in Montreal, told a westerner that the immigration of the permanent residents of Canada to take up their permanent residence in the United States would likely amount to 200,000 during the coming year. He has the names and addresses of each of those people, their residence for the previous six months and their present addresses. This accentuates the necessity of something being done immediately to attract people to our fertile acres, but more important still to make conditions such as will keep them permanently there.

Writing to *The Monetary Times* on this subject, a western correspondent says: "We must devise a means at once to throw two or three hundred million dollars more of our products into the world's commerce, and that must be largely of grain. We cannot compete successfully with certain countries in Europe in the smaller articles of the farm. Russia has increased her exports of butter 200 per cent. One-half of the butter that reaches the British market originates in Russia."

Canada can well afford to consider ways and means of increasing its agricultural production. The more products that are grown, the better will be the national posi-

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tion. Excellent reasons can be ascribed for the existence of an unfavorable trade balance in the Dominion, but there is no good reason why this should not be made far more favorable by greater production.

## MUNICIPAL FIRE INSURANCE

A proposal that the city of Calgary should give all its fire insurance business to one firm has brought out, in addition to the opposition to this plan, the idea of the city carrying its own risks. The annual premiums on municipal property amount to \$12,000. The city council has a splendid fire-fighting equipment and losses in past years have been trivial. Instead of paying all the premiums, as now, the latest suggestion is that a portion of it be funded every year until the total was large enough for the city to carry its own insurance.

The proposal for municipal fire insurance is made periodically but often its fallacies have been pointed out. Only a few weeks ago, Regina made a similar suggestion. Luckily the civic authorities were sufficiently wise to reject the idea. A few days later part of the city's exhibition buildings were burned with losses that would have entirely obliterated the municipal fire insurance fund and left it in debt besides.

It is often forgotten that the fire insurance premium is ever ready to meet the fire risk, present every minute, day and night. Fire may occur at any moment, the loss may be \$1.00 or it may be \$1,000,000. Whatever is the loss, the fire insurance companies will pay—if the insurance is placed with reputable companies. Civic fire insurance has been tried and has invariably proved a disastrous failure.