

CANADA VIEWED IN ENGLAND.

A BRITISH FARMER INTERVIEWED IN THIS COUNTRY BY AN ENGLISH WRITER

He Tells the Old Country Folks that Canada is a Grand Place for Farmers.—Comments on our Cheese Factories and Crop Growing.—The Scarcity of Farm Labourers.—A Breezy article, Full of Facts.

In writing a series of amusing and interesting articles for an English paper, Mr. W. L. Martin, who came to this country some eighteen months ago, sends home the following racy interview with an English farmer who recently settled in Ontario. The value of such articles, circulated in an agricultural community as this one was (in Cornwall), can scarcely be over-estimated as an incentive to bringing English emigrants to a country, and we are of opinion that if such correspondence were encouraged by the Canadian government it would prove an infinite boon to the Dominion. The writer says:—

One day after we had been camping out some time, and when King Sol was pouring down upon us like molten lead, I took my umbrella for a sunshade and strolled up to Rochdale, bent upon having a chat with Mr. Thomas for the benefit of my *Cornish Times* readers. When I approached the door my friend was sitting in the kitchen with his head bent forward meditatively and mopping the perspiration from his brow behind an immense sunshade hat.

"As you see, I have come on business," I said, extracting a huge notebook from my bosom.

"Well what is the matter?" he asked.

"It's like this," I said, "I am going to write some nooes on Canada for the *Cornish Times*, and I want to give 'em some fax and figgers. In other words I want to enlighten the average Englishman in regard to this country."

"Just so," said Mr. T., tipping back his hat and brushing away the flies.

"If I were to quote the poet to them," I continued, and say—

"Know ye the land of the maple and beaver, Of Lo, the poor Injun, that festive deceiver!"

they would say, "Yes we have read all about it in the *Deadwood Dick* series."

But I want to show them their mistake, and tell them the plain, unvarnished truth; and I want you to stand by me, and give me your ideas. If I should say that I stayed a fortnight in the wilds of Canada and hadn't had a single encounter with a bear, or been chased by wolves, or hunted by Indians with bowie knives, my readers would write me down a romancer. If I declared on my death-bed that I never carried a revolver or slept with a brace of pistols under my pillow, they would scoff at me. But no matter—I shall tell them the truth. I shall solemnly swear that I have seen farmers who could read and write, and I shall tell them that they offered me a delicious beverage called tea—and in a china cup, too. I shall say that the people dress as if they were civilized, and to prove it I shall say that the women wear false hair and do it up in curl-papers, and that the men positively shave their faces with sharp razors, wear gold rings on their fingers, and chew tobacco! By the way, what is your opinion of farming in Canada?"

"I think that an industrious man can make money here, and would advise any farmers in England who are crippled by the depression, to come here before they lose their all. They can carry lower sails than their pride would allow them to in the old country for one thing."

"What kind of farming pays best? Decidedly dairying. This country of Leeds produces more cheese than any other country in Canada. There are cheese factories about three miles apart, and I should say that ninety per cent. of the farmers take their milk to the factories every morning, except Sunday, and they bring the whey back with them for the pigs, and calves."

"And how about the income?"

"At the end of the month the cheese is sold, and the money divided according to the quantities of milk sent in by each man. The factory owner gets about a farthing a pound for making the cheese, and this year, I believe, the farmer will get about a cent a pound for his milk."

"Good business! And I hope the farmers out here don't grumble after that?"

"Well, they have not got so much reason to grumble as they have at home as a rule. As proof that they must make money, nearly every farmer in this county owns his own farm, and any one with enterprise soon gains the goal."

"Still, when the farmers grumble it isn't always the present that troubles them, methinks. They are like the old lady who said—I feel very well now, but I always feel bad when I feel well because I'm afraid I'm going to feel worse afterwards."

"It is all very well for you to talk, but I know what farming in England is, with high rents, low prices, and so much foreign competition. They can not compete with the enormous importations."

"Well, they complain that while wheat used to return 15s. and 16s. a bushel it now brings in only 5s. But that can't be helped; it's a case of supply and demand again, and while the British public can get a cheap loaf from outside, it is never going to pay for a dear one just to support home industry. The only thing for the English farmer to do is to temporise, and if he can't make the nimble nin-pence one place, move on and try some other place more likely, like the organ-grinder does. Anyhow, what about corn growing?"

"In this part of the country it does not pay to raise grain for the market. Oats are chiefly grown here and consumed on the farm. Large quantities of maize are also grown for ensilage, and it is fast becoming a favorite. We can grow more maize on a given space than anything else."

"Plenty of farm labor to be got here?"

"No. We can hardly get men in this part for love or money. And they command good wages too. There are lots of chances for willing workers in all branches of farming. This is a very fine country with a grand future before it—and the fact can't be too often repeated."

SWAZILAND.

The position of the unfortunate Swazis now presents itself in one aspect which has not yet been placed before the people of this country.

The Government, be it remembered, has agreed not only to hand over Swaziland to the Boers, but is at the present moment engaged in the very immoral task of trying (through the Resident British Commissioner, Colonel Martin C. M. G.) to instil the notion into the Swazis that if they resist the inroad by the Boers, we shall actively aid in their suppression as an independent nation.

The Government are wrong on two points, and if the British people only clearly understood the question it would ever sanction the scheme. Lord Ripon has distinctly laid it down that there is not, and never has been, a British Protectorate over Swaziland. It naturally follows that we cannot hand over the country to the Boers, for the simple reason that it is not ours to hand over.

We can desert our old allies and it is Lord Rosebery's intention so to do. Lord Ripon goes a step further, and endeavours to frighten the Swazis into submission by insinuating that resistance on their part will be met with by force on our side.

The Government if questioned will probably deny this, but we have the very best authority for stating that this, and this alone, is occupying the attention of the British Commissioner at Bremersdorf. The Boers openly state that they look to England to make things right in this respect. We are already betrayed the Swazis; we are now endeavouring to deceive them by threatening them with a punishment which no English Government would dare to inflict. Traitors first; deceivers afterwards. Such is the pass to which English honour has been brought by a Radical Government.—*The Carlisle Patriot*.

TWO BOOKS ON CANADA.

Two books have lately appeared in Great Britain which tend to make the readers of the United Kingdom better acquainted with Canada. One is the publication in book form—with additions—of Mr. George R. Parkin's admirable Canadian letters to the *London, Eng., Times*; and the other is Douglas Sladen's volume on the Queen's highway to the East, "being the journal of a pilgrimage from Halifax in Nova Scotia to Victoria in Vancouver Island."

The tone of Mr. Parkin's letters is already fairly familiar in this country. He believes in us and in wide capabilities of our section of the continent. As the *Times* puts it, "in presenting to the public a well-written and thoroughly interesting volume upon a portion of the Empire of which the importance is becoming every day more manifest, he has supplied a want long felt, which the brilliant pessimism of Mr. Goldwin Smith served to stimulate but not to satisfy."

The publication of two volumes of this character cannot but spread true opinions of Canada among the English people. Our country has to be known to be appreciated, and it is uphill business tooting on our own whistle. Emigration literature must always expend a maximum of powder with a maximum of effect, no matter how skillfully the gun be loaded; but opinion of the above kind, vouched for by the *Times* and Mr. Sladen, cannot fail to attract attention.

IMMIGRATION.

There is nothing in the policy of the Dominion of Canada that requires attention and serious consideration more than that of immigration. Questions of internal policy are for the most part matters of detail, but there is nothing more vitally important to the ultimate success of a young country than the settling of it with a desirable population.

We cannot close our eyes to the fact that the policy of Canada in this respect has not been as prolific of good result as might have been anticipated.

There are many causes of this and it certainly appears that it would be necessary to inaugurate a vigorous immigration policy if we wish to fill up the great country to the west of us and if we desire to hold our own in national prosperity.

In spite of the fact that we have millions of acres of the best arable land in the world the great tide of immigration continues to flow in other directions. The British colonies of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa are still receiving large influx of immigrants from the old country, while for the last two years our receipts of this commodity have been extremely limited. The prospects for the coming season are not encouraging and we are led to believe that, although there may be a small influx from the United States, there will not be anything of rush from across the Atlantic.

It is perhaps somewhat difficult to say exactly what remedy should be applied for this state of things, but it is apparent that some vigorous policy must be pursued.

In this, as well as in all other business matters, "Honesty is the best policy" and it pays, in the end, to look things squarely in the face and avoid deception of any kind.

Much harm has been done in the past by the false representations of agents. They have over-drawn their pictures, made use of false coloring and concealed the truth. The natural result has followed. Disappointment and indignation have been caused by gross misrepresentation. News of such deception spreads quickly and it recoils upon those who make use of it.

A plain unvarnished tale of the advantages to be gained by settlement in Canada should be sufficient to ensure a rapid increase to our population.

There are those that say we do not want people here and that we have enough now walking around doing nothing. This is no argument. Those who are walking around doing nothing are not the class of people required by this or any other country.

In order to make us more prosperous we require to fill up our farming lands with a desirable class of immigrants and the sooner the Government wakes up to that fact the better.

Some of us are apt to place too much confidence in the veracity of the average Britisher and to take it for granted that he can be easily deceived.

This is a mistaken idea. John Bull is proverbially slow but nevertheless he is a thoroughly practical business man, and if you succeed in taking him in once, you will find it a hard matter to repeat the operation. There is, at the present time, a large number of the most desirable class of British farmers ready to emigrate.

A strenuous effort should certainly be made to secure them for the Northwest.

IMMIGRATION NOTES.

Reports received at the Interior Department, Ottawa, indicate an active immigration movement into Northern Alberta this spring. "During the month of March," one report says, "370 settlers have arrived and settled north of Calgary, and this in the month when nothing more than locating the land and perhaps getting out a few logs or fence rails can possibly be done. The bulk of these settlers have come from the Western States. Thirty-four car loads of stock and effects were brought in by them. There were 85 settlers on the last train leaving Calgary, over half of whom came through to Edmonton; twelve of these came from Ontario, four from England, and sixty-nine from different parts of the United States."

The value of the farm produce raised in Canada is \$350,000,000. Of this amount we sell \$6,300,000 to our neighbors in the United States, \$40,000,000 to Britain and \$3,000,000 to other countries. The remaining \$300,000,000 is sold in our own market, of Canada, which is only the dearest (because no railway steps in to claim half of it for removing the other half) but is also the best, and most Canadians will admit that it is the market above all others to foster by every possible means.

HOWARD VINCENT

ON THE

Ottawa Conference.

Colonel C. F. Howard Vincent said everyone must be astonished that the Queen's Speech contained no reference to the Colonies, and more especially to the Convention at Ottawa in July last of all the self-governing Colonies. The only reference to the Colonies concerned the small Colony of Sierra Leone. It was his duty to call attention to this serious omission, and move an Amendment to the Address on the subject. He must also refer to the omission of reference to the depression of trade, which affected all the large towns in this country and threw a large number of persons out of employment. It was impossible that the Government could be unaware of the condition of things; if so, how was it that they did not call attention to a matter which was of the most vital importance to the great working classes of this country? But he was anxious not to raise any controversial matter in the Amendment he was desirous of submitting, which was—

"And this House humbly desires to represent to Your Majesty that steps should be taken to remove any Statutory or Treaty obstacle standing in the way of any arrangement which may be desired in the direction of a Custom Union between the different parts of the British Empire."

He hoped the Government might see their way to accept the Amendment, or give such an assurance with reference to the subject of it, as might give satisfaction to the great Colonies of Canada, Australia, and South Africa, taking part in the Ottawa Convention.

He need hardly remind the House that the moving spirit of the Convention was Sir John Thompson, whose tragic death, almost in the presence of his Sovereign, was mourned by every subject of the Queen. The President was the Hon. Sir Mackenzie Bowell, the present Premier of Canada. The Governments of Australasia and South Africa were represented by their most able statesmen. The Imperial Government was represented by a Special Commissioner, the Earl of Jersey, who was selected because of his special fitness and Colonial experience. His Report was presented to the Government many months ago, and had since been laid on the Table of the House. There had been ample time for the Government to come to some decision on the moderate recommendations contained in Lord Jersey's Report, which was agreed to by the Colonial Conference at Ottawa. Two Resolutions were carried absolutely unanimously by the delegates of the Colonies represented, and he might say the Colonies selected their most eminent statesmen to represent them. He should like to read the two Resolutions agreed to, and which he had abstracted from Lord Jersey's Report. The first Resolution was—

"That provision should be made by Imperial legislation enabling the Dependencies of the Empire to enter into agreements of commercial reciprocity, including the power of making differential tariffs with Great Britain or with one another."

The second was as follows:—

"That this Conference is of opinion that any provisions in existing Treaties between Great Britain and any Foreign Power which prevent the self-governing Dependencies of the Empire from entering into agreements of commercial reciprocity with each other, or with Great Britain, should be removed."

A third resolution expressed the opinion of the Conference in favour of preferential arrangements (1) between Great Britain and her Colonies; and (2), pending such an event, between the Colonies *inter se*. This was also passed by a majority of the Colonies, but not quite unanimously, as some thought the wording a little faulty, and that this Clause—

"That until the Mother Country can see her way to enter into Customs arrangements with her Colonies, it is desirable that, when empowered so to do, the Colonies of Great Britain, or such of them as may be disposed to accede to this view, take steps to place each others products in whole or in part on a more-favoured Customs basis than is accorded to the like products of foreign countries."

—was somewhat in the nature of a threat to the Mother Country. This, he had good reason to know, was far from the intention of the mover, the able Finance Minister of Canada. As to the first Resolution enabling the Dependencies of the Empire to enter into agreements of commercial reciprocity with Great Britain or with one another, Lord Jersey had written:

"It was clearly the opinion of all the Colonial delegates that it is desirable that the Colonies represented should make arrangements with another, and, if possible, with Great Britain, which would give British an advantage over foreign products, and that for this purpose any statutory or treaty provisions which stand in the way should be removed. It was felt by the delegates that, so far as might be possible, British subjects should take what they have to import from their own kindred rather than from foreign States."

This view, if not adopted by Her Majesty's Ministers, was largely shared by the people of this country and by the Colonies, and involved no question of Protection, but simply carried out the original object in the acquisition of trade. All that was needed was a short Act of half-a-dozen words repealing the section in the Constitution Acts of the

Australian Colonies prohibiting them from making differential commercial conventions with other over-sea Colonies. This power had been granted to them as regarded Colonies on the Australian Continent by the Imperial Act of 1873, 36 Vict. ch. 22. It was a power already possessed by Canada, South Africa, and the Crown Colonies. There was consequently no ground whatever for withholding it from Australia, and especially as it would probably lead at once to a great development of trade with Canada. He might remind Her Majesty's Government that last year the Colony of Victoria had sent home a Special Commissioner, the Hon. Robert Reid, to urge this concession. Lord Jersey had reported that

"This statutory prohibition appears to be of a very exceptional, if not of a unique character,"

and

"the repeal of the provisions in question is free from any serious objection, either on constitutional or on commercial grounds. I consider, therefore, that it will be a consistent and successful policy to recognise the reasonable nature of the request that the self-governing Colonies should have the power, subject to the veto of the Crown, to make such fiscal arrangements with each other as may seem to them most conducive to their commercial prosperity."

The second resolution dealt with the removal of any treaty obstacles which might exist to the fullest possible extension of British trade. It might be asked, was it possible that any such treaties had ever been concluded by a British Government with a foreign power? Unfortunately it was so. On July 23rd, 1862, a treaty was entered into with Belgium, and on May 30th, 1865, with the German Zollverein, each containing, without consultation with the Colonies, a clause reported to Parliament in 1888 by the Foreign Office

"as precluding the preferential fiscal treatment of British goods in the Colonies and dependencies of the British Crown, which these two treaties remained in force these express stipulations extend to all countries whose commercial treaties with Great Britain contain a most favoured nation clause, and apply to British colonies."

Lord Salisbury, addressing the United Empire Trade League in 1891, and

"With regard to those two unlucky treaties that were made by Lord Palmerston's Government thirty years ago, I am sure the matter of the relation of our Colonies could not have been fully considered. We have tried to find out from official records what species of reasoning it was that induced the statesmen of that day to sign such very unfortunate pledges; but I do not think they had any notion that they were signing any pledges at all. I have not been able to discover that they at all realised the importance of the engagements upon which they were entering. We shall be glad indeed to take every opportunity that arises for delivering ourselves from those unfortunate engagements."

(Concluded in our next issue)

THE WILD FLOWERS OF CANADA.

This Dominion will soon be covered with wild flowers as with a carpet. It is interesting to hear that splendid prizes are to be given to those who know the Wild Flowers of Canada by name, form and color. European and American judges of floral nature say Canadians should be so carried away with the beauty of their own native bloom as to ensure an acquaintance with the Wild Flowers of Canada by every man, woman, boy and girl in the Dominion.

In this connection the *Montreal Star* is coming in for much praise for a splendid work it is publishing, entitled "The Wild Flowers of Canada," in portfolio form, three hundred plates in all, natural colors, and natural size, the whole forming an invaluable treasure for the library. For a limited time these valuable portfolios may be obtained from the *Montreal Star* or local newsdealers at fifteen cents each. Amazingly cheap.

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