

his high office to suppose he made such a blunder. But even as regards opening negotiations for a new Treaty, it would have been good policy to let our neighbours move first. As a matter of etiquette, it was their place to do so, as Messrs. Galt and Howland had unsuccessfully solicited them, on our behalf, two years before. We hope that Mr. Thornton's action will not lead Mr. Seward to think we are prepared to accept anything but fair and impartial terms, for we are assured that the Parliament of the Dominion will never agree to any Treaty which is not quite as profitable for us as for our neighbours, for experience has proved to us that we are quite as able to do without one as they are.

One thing appears very certain: if a new Treaty is agreed to next Spring, it will be far more comprehensive than the last one. Mr. Seward is reported to have said that the last Treaty was drawn up largely with a view of promoting an Annexation feeling among our people, the next one would partake more of a commercial character, and be far wider in its scope. Manufactures will almost certainly be embraced in any new Treaty negotiated, and possibly the whole trade of the two countries may be placed as nearly on a Free Trade basis as possible. We are convinced our manufacturers are now prepared for this, and that the freer the commercial relations between the two countries, the more we have to gain.

IMMIGRATION.

AN article in a recent issue of *La Minerve*, on the above subject, states from a French Canadian point of view, the difficulty, which attaches to the obtaining of foreign settlers in Lower Canada. It states, in effect that English and German emigrants will not remain in Lower, but immediately push on to Upper Canada, that the English minority in this Province would see in any means adopted by the Local Government to secure immigrants from France or Belgium an act of aggression and injustice. *La Minerve* offers to its English confederates for their study, the question how to induce English speaking immigrants to settle in Lower Canada, and points out the unfairness of expecting this Province to pay a proportion of the cost of attracting strangers to the country, who would only help to enrich Ontario and add to its population.

For our own part, we do not conceive that the English minority in this Province, would oppose any measures which would tend to bring into the country settlers of actual means or of industrious habits, whereby they could at once earn for themselves a livelihood, whether they were French or Germans, or Norwegians, or even Chinese; the development of the country would not benefit any particular class of citizens, but would afford to all classes alike increased opportunities for obtaining an independence. We trust English speaking Canadians in this Province would not show themselves imbued with the narrow-mindedness which would prefer to see the land unsettled, rather than that the power of the majority should be increased. Speaking for ourselves, we are in favour of whatever will prove most efficacious to attract to the Dominion of Canada, or any part of it, an increased number of productive settlers, especially of men who will occupy and cultivate the farms that are tendered to their acceptance in all the Provinces. We do not desire to have an immigration of merely laboring men, whether skilled or unskilled, unless accompanying them could be sent a corresponding amount of capital to be invested for their employment: we have now as many laborers as the capital here can well furnish with work, and it would be useless to still further glut the labour market, when it is a matter of notoriety that many are daily leaving the country because it is impossible for them to obtain suitable employment.

To those who are accustomed to tilling the soil, Lower, as well as Upper Canada, offers great advantages; and we think that any efforts made should be with the intent of increasing our agricultural population. Free grants of land are undoubtedly powerful inducements; but it has only been within the brief limits of a twelvemonth that these free farms have been offered to settlers, and the chances are that very few of those who might be willing to avail themselves thereof, are aware of what has been done. Pains should be taken at the earliest possible moment to give the widest publicity to the facts in all countries where a super-abundant population would seem to offer a good field for effort. In France, where the subdivision of the land has proceeded with great rapidity

and to an extent necessitating the closest attention to the economies of tillage, we should imagine that many would be found willing to exchange their minute estates, from whence they derive a bare support, for the comparatively princely domains offered to them here. They would settle, not amongst strangers speaking an unknown tongue, but amongst the descendants of their own countrymen, who would give to them a hearty greeting, a cordial welcome to the land of plenty. They would have little difficulty in becoming accustomed to the differences in climate, and their habits of constant industry at home would admirably fit them for the toilsomeness of a settler's life in first undertaking the clearing and breaking up of the wild land.

The great element needful to the growth of this young Dominion is the increase of its agricultural population. Before manufactures and commerce can flourish, there must needs first exist a people whose necessities are to be supplied, and who must be in a position to purchase articles of home manufacture or foreign production by what they can spare from the produce of their lands. All classes of the community are prosperous when abundant harvests bless the toil of the farmers; but when their granaries are empty, the anxious merchant has sleepless nights, and the manufacturer and his workmen are fortunate if they can work even on half time. There is no concealing the fact that to the tillers of the soil and the tenders of cattle, does Canada chiefly owe its prosperity, and it is to these it will continue to owe it: consequently the greater the number of the husbandmen, the more wealthy will Canada become, and the greater inducements will she offer to all other classes, both capitalists and laborers, to make her their home.

To sum up: to secure a large farming population is the surest way to create opening for employment of all kinds, whether commercial or manufacturing, and the growth of the agricultural must in the very nature of things precede, not follow, the increase of all other interests; therefore, the aim of all legislation on immigration should be to attract hither not artisans or day labourers, but *bona-fide* settlers, who in pushing their own fortunes would add to the general prosperity.

FAILURES IN THE HOP TRADE.

THE culture of hops in the State of Wisconsin has met with a serious check this season. For a few years past, hop raising has been all the rage there. In some counties, in particular, the farmers seem to get a little wild on the subject, and almost their whole capital and attention has been turned towards raising this crop. The cause of this is undoubtedly to be found in the high prices obtained for several years. Not a few were thus able to realize fortunes out of the business in a comparatively short space of time, and their success has led thousands in the United States to embark in the same line. It is said that the hop "fever" became so bad in some parts of Wisconsin that many well-to-do farmers mortgaged their farms to enable them to commence hop-yards on a very extensive scale, which were expected to enrich their lucky owners in a very short space of time. The end of it is, a re-action this season which has landed many of these in bankruptcy, and which has depressed the whole hop interest to the lowest point. The price of hops has fallen so low that a great deal of money must be sunk this season by the raisers; indeed, if we are to fully credit the press of Wisconsin, the hop districts of that State have been injured to an alarming extent. These facts go to show what has so often been observed before—that businesses which are unduly prosperous for a season, are almost certain soon to suffer a reverse. Their large profits attract capital so rapidly, that soon the market is overstocked and a collapse in prices takes place. This appears to be the end which has overtaken the hop business; but there is every reason to believe that it will only be of a temporary character. The demand for hops is annually increasing, and although many growers may go down during the crisis, still fair profits will soon become the order of the day again. We are glad to know that a great increase has taken place in the culture of this crop in Canada of late years. In some districts a large number of farmers devote at least one field to hops, and there are some individuals whose hop-yards are so extensive as to take up their whole attention. We do not desire to see our people go into the business so recklessly as the farmers of Wisconsin appear to have done; but if gone into in a moderate and intelligent way, hop-raising will be found to return good profits on the time and labour invested thereon.

WILL SOMETHING BE DONE AT LAST?

THERE has heretofore been so much talk about encouraging Immigration into Canada, and so little done, that we had almost begun to despair of any good being accomplished. But we are bound to say that the prospects of the Dominion in this respect, are beginning to look brighter. Several leading organs of public opinion in England have recently called attention to the importance of this country as a field for Emigration. This has done much to render the Dominion popular in this respect among our countrymen in Great Britain who are probably the most useful class of Emigrants whom we can obtain.

Another hopeful sign is the facility with which Miss Rye secures means to bring out her cargoes of house-servants—another hundred of whom are said to be on their way across the ocean. The Clerkenwell Emigration Society has also its agent at present in Canada. This gentleman, Mr. Lynn, lately waited upon the Ontario Crown Lands Commissioner, and it is understood that the society of which he is the representative, was promised every encouragement by Mr. Richards, who gave full explanations in regard to the Free Grants of Land now offered for occupation. And last but not least, we are glad to observe that a joint conference is about to take place in Quebec between delegates appointed by the Dominion and Local Governments, on the subject of Immigration. We regard all these circumstances as affording some hope that at last decided steps are to be taken to attract to Canada a share of those human tides which annually flow from Europe to develop the resources and enrich so many new countries.

We have never expected that Canada would be able to secure as large a share of foreign Emigrants as the United States. The cause of this is plain, and it is only a silly species of self-deception to ignore it: the Prairie lands of Kansas and other Western States are considered by the majority, preferable to ours. But notwithstanding this fact, we can offer settlers inducements which the great West cannot—we can offer better markets, more stable institutions, and a healthier climate. If these advantages are not enough to counter-balance any difficulty to be met with in clearing the bush, then the farmer has the timber to fall back upon, which is annually enhancing in value. These facts require not only to be made known throughout Europe, but the Conference at Quebec will fall far short of its duty, if it does not decide upon active efforts being put forth by intelligent agents in Great Britain to direct the stream of Emigration hither. As we have said already, there has been more than enough of talk. The passage of a few resolutions and the adoption of a few recommendations, will be mere child's play. The time for action has arrived. The various Governments must be prepared to spend something, if there is to be anything like reasonable success.

Two or three good agents in Europe we regard as indispensable. If the Governments are not prepared to offer assisted passages like New Zealand, there is one way in which we think good might be done. The agents might be furnished with plans of the Free Grant Territory, and locate land to every able-bodied man who undertook to come out and settle upon it! Many would doubtless prefer to come out and choose land for themselves, but the very fact that they could obtain a title to a farm before Emigrating, would draw attention to the Dominion, and create an interest in our Free Grant movement never before felt. The "Emigration Gazette," or some other well-conducted journal, should be largely circulated throughout the British Isles, and in several other ways could intending Emigrants be induced to cast in their lot with us. We would particularly press upon the members of the approaching Conference, the necessity of *doing something*. If their meeting ends—as many others have done in days gone by—in useless discussion, it would be better if should never be held.

Whilst on this subject we must raise our voice in deprecation of the manner in which some of the press have treated Miss Rye, and also spoken of the London movement. Not a little rude criticism not to say unjust insinuation, has been indulged in against both these Immigration movements. This course involves both bad taste and bad policy. The British public evidently consider that Miss Rye deserves the highest praise for her interest in the improvement of the condition of her fellow-countrywomen, and surely Canadians have no reason to be dissatisfied. It may be the case that a few of the girls whom Miss Rye brought over last Spring have not turned out as well