

The Colonist.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO
WESTERN CANADA.

Sixth Year of Publication.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, \$1 A YEAR (4 SHILLINGS)
ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION

Address: PUBLISHERS "THE COLONIST,"
WINNIPEG, MAN., - CANADA.

WINNIPEG, FEBRUARY, 1892.

WESTERN CANADA VS. GREAT BRITAIN.

To the courtesy of the Manitoba Government offices at Liverpool, England, we are indebted for a copy of *The Agricultural Gazette*, of London, containing an article under the heading "Rent," signed by Primrose McConnell, B. Sc., which places Manitoba and the Territories in a very favorable light compared with the old country, from the point of view of the rent value of lands.

The object of the article is evidently to draw the attention of British land owners to the fact that unless they speedily grant certain concessions for which the tenant farmers have long been asking, and make the conditions under which these tenants live and rent land, more in equality with the conditions under which farmers live in Western Canada, their chances will be good for having in a few years to farm their lands themselves. The following sentence quoted literally embraces that idea:

"For the last twenty years the farm produce of Great Britain has been competing with that of other lands; now the land itself of Great Britain is in direct competition with that of the Canadian Northwest, and the rent value at home will be more and more ruled by the choice which farmers have between the two countries."

Facts and figures are brought forward to show that "the net value of a crop at home is just about the same as one in Canada," consequently, rents should be reduced to an equal basis. The early frost dangers of Western Canada are not ignored, but it is shown that financial embarrassment as a result of such an accident can be avoided by engaging in mixed farming.

One paragraph which is especially pointed is worth quoting in full. It read as follows:

"But let it be noted that every man who goes out there is working for himself and his family alone. If he is not the absolute owner of his farm to begin with, at least he is gaining that end by yearly instalments, and thus the "earth hunger" which is common to us all,

can be appeased. He is practically rent free, taxes are light, and no man shares the value of any improvement he makes on his land, and, if he underrstands farming, he is sure to "make his pile."

It is also shown how comparatively easy it is to get to Canada now to what it was ten or fifteen years ago, and how cheaply the trip can be made, £10 being stated as the entire cost for a steerage and colonist car passage from Liverpool to Central Canada. "Any farmer who can spare two month's time and £60 or £70," which would amply suffice for a return, first-class passage, and hotel expenses, "is advised to take a trip out and see for himself the farming of the 'Great Lone Land' and the magnificent soil on which it is conducted."

THE LADY ABERDEEN ASSOCIATION.

Lady Aberdeen has, by her kindly efforts to brighten and make happier the lives of the poorer classes of people, well earned the fervent "God bless her," that we so often hear. Her latest effort is on behalf of the settlers of Western Canada.

It is well known that for some time there has existed in Winnipeg an Association of ladies, organized, we believe, at Lady Aberdeen's suggestion, which has for its object the promotion of the circulation of good literature among the settlers on the prairies of Western Canada. A late number of the *Canadian Gazette* contains a letter from this eminent gentlewoman, describing the Association and its method of working, and telling of the happiness which the monthly parcels of magazines and periodicals, sent out by it, brings to the homes of the settlers. And in order that the dimensions of the work may be increased and a larger number of homes reached, she appeals to those in England who may be in a position to do so, to send donations of money or books to the office of the Association at Winnipeg, where the contributions, if books, would be immediately forwarded to the homes most in need, or, if money, would be used in paying postage and other expenses.

The amount of good that will be accomplished by this work is not yet realized by the public of Canada. This wholesale distribution of high-class literature throughout the Northwest is bound to leave its mark on the rising generation. In a country home far from the haunts of men, where no faces but the familiar ones of the family are seen for weeks at a

time, books play a far more important part in the development of the children's minds than they do in a city or town or even in agricultural districts where the farmers are within neighboring distance. How important it is then that the books be good. With the selection of them left to a body of refined and educated ladies, such as the Lady Aberdeen Association is, we may rest assured that those placed in the hands of the Northwest settlers will have that qualification.

A MISCHIEVOUS ARTICLE.

It is seldom that anything occurs to interrupt the good feeling which exists between the people of Manitoba and those of the Provinces and Territories to the west of her, and, indeed, so seldom do their interests clash that no reasonable cause for quarrelling can at any time be found. It is to be regretted then that the editor of the *Calgary Herald* should have seen fit to publish the following editorial in his number of January 6th. We quote the article in full in order that none of the points may escape notice:

"It is now generally understood that the agents of the Manitoba Government, with the approval of that Government, will make a great effort to head off the anticipated immigration into Alberta, and especially to the Red Deer and Edmonton districts, the coming spring. Our information on this point convinces us that Manitoba intends to play a lone hand and that she is preparing to play boldly. If this can be successfully done we may be sure that the assistance of the Dominion Immigration Agent for the Northwest—Mr. G. H. Campbell—will be counted upon. Under the circumstances it would be well to have a clear definition of Mr. Campbell's duties and the extent to which he represents and labors in the interests of this section of the Northwest.

We hear also that the Manitoba movement will include the heading off of immigration into Prince Albert District; in fact, that Manitoba's hand is against all the Territories. It would be well, under the circumstances, to have an early understanding with the Dominion Government as to the extent to which a policy hostile to the settlement of the Territories is being or will be encouraged at Ottawa."

Coming as that did immediately after the season when it is usual and natural to wish for "peace on earth, good will toward men," it speaks badly for the temperament of the *Herald's* pen-pusher.

Manitoba is not given to putting up such jobs on her neighbors. Her Immigration Agents will be able to find plenty of the very best of settlers for the lands within their Province, without having to steal or head off any of those bound for Alberta. It is almost as much to the interests of Manitoba that the land to the west of her be settled, as it is that her own be. Why she should have special designs on settlers bound for Red Deer and Edmonton Districts is not stated.