

the world. Its wheat is the standard of the world and its crops materially affect the world's markets.

To-day thousands of native Canadians from the East and thousands of immigrants are moving into the West and making homes for themselves. New towns are springing up all over the prairies, new districts are being opened up; wherever one may go he will find life and activity. The people are happy and have absolute faith in the country and its future. Everywhere there is a spirit of confidence and buoyancy. People are pouring into the West and they are staying there because they are taking up homesteads and buying land as well. And they are producing so much and buying so much that for several years the railways have not been able to handle the traffic offered them. This phenomenal expansion began with the inauguration of Liberal rule. The same land was there during the Conservative regime; there were just as great yields of grain per acre then as to-day, but the country made practically no progress. As soon as the Liberals began an energetic immigration policy and enacted reasonable legislation regarding homesteading and settlement a change took place. The only conditions that exist to-day that did not exist under the Conservatives are those of legislation and administration just referred to. It follows then that they must have been the new conditions that brought about the development that has taken place.

The newspapers are constantly so full of items respecting the progress of the West that it is needless to submit any evidence thereof. Everyone knows it. But it is worth while giving figures as to land sales by land-owning railways and as to homesteads taken up by new settlers. The homesteads show that the development is not of a temporary character, but is one that contains the essential elements of permanency. The land sales give an idea as to how great the development really is. And the figures in both cases show that it was not until the Liberals came into power that expansion began.

Take the homestead figures first:—

CONSERVATIVE REGIME.

Year.	No. of Homestead Entries.
1889-90.....	3,165
1890-91.....	2,676
1891-92.....	4,571
1892-93.....	4,131
1893-94.....	3,568
1894-95.....	3,030
1895-96.....	1,888

Total..... 23,029

LIBERAL REGIME.

Year.	No. of Homestead Entries.
1896-97.....	2,155
1897-98.....	3,514
1898-99.....	5,912
1899-1900.....	7,426