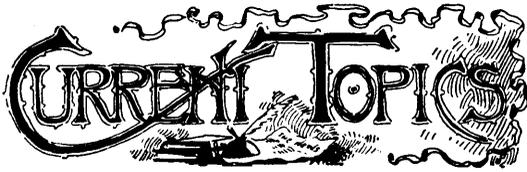


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 GEORGE E. DESBARATS, MANAGING-DIRECTOR,
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In a recent article on our dairy industries we deprecated the risk, in the new-born zeal to heighten our butter standard, of repeating the mistake to which it owed its decline in the case of Canadian cheese. That would, we need hardly say, be an even more serious blunder (as there is so much to lose) than that into which our dairymen fell when they allowed cheese practically to monopolize their attention. We are glad to see that our prominent cheese-makers are determined to avoid that mistake, and for that purpose they have formed a distinct organization, to be known as the Ontario and Quebec Cheese-Makers Association. The proceedings were opened at Lancaster on the 13th inst. by Mr. D. M. Macpherson, of whose remarkable career our readers are not unaware. Prof. Robertson, the Dominion Agricultural Commissioner, gave a most interesting address, in which he discussed technical points with a lucidity which made misunderstanding impossible, even to novices. He treated of flavour, and gave some valuable hints as to its delicate shades of difference and how they originate. A resolution was passed for the protection of Canadian cheese against inferior counterfeits, and a committee having been appointed to nominate officers the following selection was made: Messrs. J. A. Ruddick, president, Lancaster, Ont.; C. C. McDonnell, vice-president; Wesley McLeod, secretary-treasurer; A. C. Tracy, J. Dixon, A. W. Winters, C. Hollister, J. A. Kinsella, directors.

In his evidence before the Agriculture and Colonization Committee last week, Mr. John Lowe, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, gave an interesting statement of the immigration of the past year. The number of immigrants who arrived by the St. Lawrence route in 1889 was 29,591, against 37,700 in the previous year. The number of those who stated that their destination was Manitoba and the North-West was 26,809. Of 38,617 immigrants from across the border, 25,521 were set down as Canadians returning to Canada. As to the exodus from Canada no figures were produced, but Mr. Lowe did not think that the average was more than 30,000 in the year. The total influx of immigrants during the year 1889 was estimated at 91,000. The amount spent for immigration purposes was \$126,000.

Mr. Lowe called attention to the efforts that have been made for years past by the Argentine Republic to induce immigrants from Europe to settle in that country. Since the pacification of the Indians of the interior and the cessation of hostilities with the neighbouring States, the Government of the Republic has spared neither trouble

nor expense in filling up its broad expanse of fertile land with a thrifty and contented population. The system of administration adopted by the Department of Colonization is one of the most liberal and practical in operation on this continent, and, though mistakes have occasionally occurred through lack of understanding between agents in Europe and the Argentine authorities, the plan on the whole worked admirably. In connection with the Immigration Bureau there is an Employment Bureau, whose duty it is to obtain statistics and to keep itself constantly informed as to the demand for labour, both skilled and unskilled. The National Government receives and boards the new-comers for five days after their arrival, and for a longer period in case of delicate health or excessive poverty. The utmost care is also taken of the immigrants on their passage out, every individual being allowed sufficient space to ensure proper ventilation. Passengers are also supplied with all conveniences for toilet, their food is inspected, life preservers are provided, etc. The colonists can settle in communities of their own race and speech or take land by themselves, whichever they please, and the terms are most liberal. Every European nationality is now represented in the Republic, so that no settler can fail to feel at home. The soil is extremely productive, and the natural resources of the country are virtually without limit. The climate is one of the healthiest in the world, and during the last ten years the utmost order prevails. It will thus be seen that in the Argentine Republic Canada has no unworthy rival. The annual influx is not far from 200,000.

In reply to an enquiry regarding the Crofters' settlement, Mr. Lowe said that if there had been any serious complaint from that quarter he would surely have heard of it. Of all parts of New Canada, there was none that had given more marked satisfaction than the district occupied by those Scotch immigrants. Prof. Fream spoke of their condition, after his last visit a few years ago, in the most enthusiastic terms. Early in 1883 trouble arose among some of the tenants on the estate of Lady Gordon Cathcart. Her Ladyship offered to assist such of them as chose to begin life anew with better prospects to settle on Government lands in Canada. This offer was at first accepted by eleven families, and their report was so favourable that others hastened to follow. In the fall of 1883 Prof. Fream spoke highly of the arrangements made for the new colony, to which he subsequently paid two personal visits. He received not only a general expression of contentment but individual testimonies to the character of the soil, climate and other advantages, which were unmistakable. They had, in fact, everything that farmers could desire. "Here," wrote one, "is land for the landless, homes for the homeless—the beautiful land of the setting sun." "The longer I am here," said another, "the better I like it," and these statements could be multiplied. Communication was constantly maintained with the old country, and when Mr. Colmer C.M.G., paid his visit of inspection last year everything was going on satisfactorily. The only pity is that there are not more of such settlements.

From various sources we hear of the infusion of new industrial vitality into the Eastern Townships. Mr. Joseph Tassé, who lectured recently on "Annexation," especially as it would effect the interests of the people of this Province, was delighted with the progress of that thriving metro-

polis, Sherbrooke. Signs of progress were visible in all directions; but what most attracted Mr. Tassé's attention was the perfect harmony that reigned between the two sections of the population. They had no race or language question. French and English, without distinction, occupied the position of prominence and usefulness for which they were especially fitted, the mayor, Mr. Chicoyne, being a French Canadian and a journalist. We learn that a fresh impulse will be given to the manufacturing industry of the place by the establishment in the city of a branch warehouse of the Massey Manufacturing Company, of Toronto, which makes all kinds of farming implements and machinery. The company intend to make Sherbrooke a distributing point of the goods for the Eastern Townships trade.

THE LAST OF THE CROWN'S LANDS.

A Select Committee of the Imperial House of Commons is now engaged in investigating a question of considerable interest to colonists. For sometime past the people of Western Australia have been urging their plea for responsible government. The region, formerly known as the Swan River Settlement, has an extreme length from north to south of 1,280 miles and a breadth of 800 miles. Within these limits, embracing an area of more than a million square miles, there resides a population of about 45,000. It is the contrast between the small number of the inhabitants and the vast extent of the territory that gives the demand for virtual independence of the Mother Country its peculiar significance. The wishes of the colonists had no sooner been made known in England than doubts arose as to the wisdom of entrusting half a continent to a mere handful of people, not sufficient to constitute a third-rate municipality. Western Australia, nevertheless, has the consensus of all the neighbouring colonies in its favour. Queensland, which has enjoyed responsible government from its first creation as a province, has an area of nearly 700,000 square miles—nearly six times as large as that of the United Kingdom. When it began its career as a self-governing colony, its population was still smaller than that of Western Australia to-day. Still British statesmen hesitated to surrender the rights of the metropolis to so extensive a domain. One after another, nearly all England's important possessions beyond the sea, had been abandoned to the administration of those who occupied them, and if these million square miles were given up, she would, notwithstanding her mighty empire, be a veritable lackland, as far as the use of her far-spreading territories was concerned. A few thousands of the Queen's subjects could close the gates of a continent against Britain's superfluous myriads. Before giving the Western Australians such a power, the Government deemed it well that the whole subject should be carefully considered.

A bill framed as a compromise received the sanction of the House of Lords last year, but it was too late to give heed to it in the Lower House. A bill substantially the same was introduced a few weeks ago by Baron de Worms in the House of Commons. It proposes to give the colony responsible government, with the management and control of Crown Lands south of the 26th degree, the Home Government reserving the administration of the territory north of that limit, and the right of subdividing the colony hereafter. The bill also