

## IMMIGRATION WORK IN ALBERTA.

OUR American neighbors are making a big fuss over their undertaking in connection with the digging of the Panama Canal. It is spoken of as a great national undertaking which could only be accomplished by a rich and powerful nation. While not in any sense minimizing the importance of the magnitude of the Panama Canal, it is a matter of pride to Canadians to know that half as much earth per day is being moved in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway's irrigation project in Southern Alberta as is being moved on the Panama Canal. This work which is being undertaken by the Canadian Pacific Railway receives very little attention, but yet is a work which compares favorably with the world's greatest irrigation schemes.

It is claimed that the biggest irrigation project on the continent is that which the Canadian Pacific Railway is undertaking in Alberta and which is now half completed. Believing that the most striking method of impressing upon the mind of the public the vast importance of the irrigation movement in Western Canada is by presenting figures, the C. P. R. has issued the following comparisons between the irrigated acreages in Canada and the United States. While in the States some 15,000,000 acres are now served by irrigation, fully 3,500,000 acres are embraced in the projects now completed or under construction in Alberta alone. The irrigated area of Southern Alberta alone is greater than twice that of the State of California, and over a million acres in excess of the State of Colorado. Southern Alberta will, therefore, within a few years, become the greatest irrigating district on the continent of America. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company's tract of rich Bow Valley lands has an average width of forty miles from North to South, and extends from Bassano to Calgary on the West, a distance of 83 miles, and from Bassano eastward for approximately seventy miles. The land lies along the main line of the railway, and it is supplied with an unexcelled passenger and freight service. The water supply taken from the Bow River is inexhaustible, and will for all time furnish a sufficient moisture for the 1,500,000 acres of land under the Co.'s canal system. When the work now going forward on the central and eastern sections of this undertaking is completed, 3,000 miles of canals and waterways will have been constructed by the company. With reference to the work now going on in the central and eastern sections of the irrigation block, it will be of interest to know that the eastern section alone is composed of 1,156,224 acres, of which 440,000 are to be rendered irrigable. The irrigation system to serve this giant area will be entirely independent from the systems serving the western and central sections, having an independent intake located

about three miles southwest of Bassano. The estimated mileage of canals and ditches to serve this portion of the block is as follows: Main canal, five miles; secondary canals, 475 miles; distributing ditches, 2,020 miles; total, 2,500 miles. The earth work necessary to remove in connection with the construction of the above-mentioned canals and ditches will amount to over twenty million cubic yards, the whole of which is now under contract.

## NEWSPAPERS IN CHINA.

(Harper's Weekly.)

NEWSPAPERS are the most symptomatic evidence of the change in China's sentiments. They have sprung up like mushrooms, to the number of more than 2000, and practically all advocate the most advanced reform measures. Their cartoons have had a great influence in fostering the anti-dynastic and anti-foreign feeling. As is well known, the Chinese are governed by the Manchus, who came into control in 1644, have since occupied the high offices, have maintained Manchu banner corps, and have pensioned all members of the clan.

Every Manchu has been either a soldier or an official, and is in receipt of a pension. The common cry—indeed, it was made a veritable battle cry—was that the Manchus were betraying the nation to the foreigners. The newspapers and their most avid readers, who are the students, took up the slogan of "rights recovery," for they point out that the government has lost great stretches of territory to the foreigners and has given them valuable mining and railway concessions.

## Canadian Manufactures.

(Canada.)

The publication of the further details of the Census at a later date will give a still better idea of Canada's development. The schedule this year was an exceedingly elaborate one, and should provide a great deal of valuable information. The figures relating to manufactures are being looked forward to with particular interest, as the latest available—those published in 1906—are quite out-of-date. The establishments then returned numbered 15,796, with \$846,585,023 capital, 356,034 wage earners, \$134,375,925 paid in wages, and products value \$718,352,630. As instancing what may be expected, Mr. Archibald Blue, the Chief of the Census and Statistics Bureau, states that the manufactures of the city of Hamilton, Ontario, have increased more than 100 per cent. since the last census, and Montreal and Toronto will show similar gains. In his presidential address to the Canadian Manufacturers Association this month. Mr. Curry mentioned that the constituent industries of that institution represented a capital of about \$1,500,000,000—practically double the last official figures—having an annual output of manufactured goods exceeding \$1,200,000,000.

## VALUE OF BANK PREMISES.

THE bank premises accounts of our various Canadian financial institutions have been the subject of more or less critical comment for some time. For the past year or two at the annual meetings of the Bank of Montreal, certain shareholders were accustomed to criticize the bank's estimate of the value of their buildings. For years this had been placed at \$600,000, but during the past year it was increased to \$4,000,000. Other banks adopted the policy of writing off so much per year on their bank premises account despite the fact that they are continually building new branches and improving their old ones. There is no doubt but that a number of the banks have their premises written down to the lowest possible sum and that the total sum of \$33,000,000 which now represents bank premises account in Canada would be largely increased if more of the banks would do as the Bank of Montreal did this year. A few examples are sufficient to illustrate the point. The Merchants Bank is placed at less than \$2,000,000, but its valuable buildings in Montreal and other large cities are worth much more than the sum allotted to them. The Bank of Commerce places theirs at \$3,298,000 but this is below the real value of the bank's premises.

Bank shareholders and depositors will no doubt take the viewpoint, regarding these "hidden assets" in bank premises accounts, that the monthly statements are rendered on conservative lines, and that the banks as a rule have their assets well fortified by the increased valuation in premises, not shown in the public statements.

The table shows the amounts as last recorded in the Government statements.

Name of Bank.	Bank Premises Account.
Montreal .....	\$4,000,000
Bank New Brunswick.....	188,200
Quebec Bank .....	789,357
Nova Scotia .....	1,330,376
Bank North America.....	1,289,924
Bank of Toronto .....	1,295,837
Molson's Bank .....	700,000
E. T. Bank.....	1,327,116
Nationale .....	558,098
Merchants.....	1,939,603
Provinciale .....	270,000
Union .....	1,894,535
Commerce.....	3,298,339
Royal .....	2,498,835
Dominion .....	2,070,000
Hamilton .....	1,827,741
Standard .....	847,731
Hochelaga.....	356,031
Ottawa .....	1,316,566
Imperial .....	1,706,685
Traders .....	2,222,282
Metropolitan .....	292,244
Home .....	235,375
Northern Crown .....	370,168
Sterling .....	219,432
Vancouver.....	48,496
Weyburn .....	112,677
Total.....	\$33,005,648