

Bank Manager on the West.

"I did not see a disconcerted man in the Northwest," was the hopeful statement made by E. S. Clouston, general manager of the Bank of Montreal, to a reporter of the Montreal Gazette on his return from the West. He said the outlook throughout the province of Manitoba and the Territories was eminently satisfactory, and that evidence of contentment and general prosperity was visible on all sides. They talked, he added, of a wheat yield amounting from forty to fifty-five million bushels, as if one deducts five millions for seed the rest will constitute the export of the prairie farmers for the present year.

Mr. Clouston was much pleased also with the sound condition of things found in the capital city of Manitoba, adding that although there was no indication of a boom the evidence of a steady solid growth in and around Winnipeg did not fail to meet the eye of the observer. He also noticed that many improvements had taken place since his last visit. The smaller towns from Winnipeg westward showed likewise a healthy growth. He also remarked the hopefulness which had taken hold particularly of the people of Regina, which did not up to quite recently appear to be among the best wheat-growing districts.

He was told, however, during his brief sojourn in that town that the farmers had discovered qualities in the land around Regina that it was not hitherto supposed to possess, and that recent experience has given rise to the claim that this particular locality will, in the near future, become the centre of wheat production in the Canadian Northwest.

Hopes seem also to centre around Leithbridge, where the quiete recently arrived Mormon settlers have already done a great deal by means of irrigation to make that area a flourishing and progressive farming community. In fact, Mr. Clouston said that if he had not seen the evidence of industry and intelligent agricultural methods on the part of these new-comers he could not have believed that the settlers there to be a most respectable and industrious class of people, and they in turn expressed the opinion that Northwestern Canada was the finest country they had ever seen, and that it offered special advantages for agricultural pursuits. It is not surprising, therefore, that many people are leaving the Western States and taking up new and more productive holdings on Canadian soil, and Mr. Clouston learned that many have brought considerable money with them.

The banker then spoke of the co-operative system adopted by the Canadian Mormons in the location of their domain, but he said that apart from this each man had one and a quarter acres of land to work, and an instance was referred to where one of them cleared 1300 the first season over 1000 above all outlay, which fact plainly indicates the uniting industry of the settler and the fertility of the land.

While Mr. Clouston was describing the thrift of the farmers in Manitoba and the Northwest, he said that it was also applicable to the same class in British Columbia, he was questioned as to the claim made in certain Toronto papers to the effect that as a class the farmers did not get their share of banking accommodation. He said there was no ground for such a statement, as no farmer in good circumstances had any difficulty in getting aid for legitimate purposes.

In British Columbia, the mining industry, Mr. Clouston said, has received a setback owing to the strikes, but while he was at Howland there seemed to be a belief that the strike was becoming tired of the prolonged term of idleness, and that a settlement might be near at hand. While the big companies had closed down, Mr. Clouston said a good deal of individual mining was still going on, as many men were making as high as from \$5 to \$10 a day, so it could not be said that things were at a standstill.

Discussing strikes generally, Mr. Clouston repeated what he had said to a British Columbia newspaperman, to the sense of the general manager's words being that if he were a Canadian

railwayman or miner he would be most reluctant to follow the dictation of the American associations, for the reason that very frequently the conditions are most dissimilar, and while an American might understand the conditions that surround his fellow-workmen at home, he would be completely at sea on this side of the line.

Mr. Clouston did not pronounce himself as a labor organization, but simply to express the belief that there is much more profitable in the Canadian workingmen, and their organizations were constituted independently of those in the United States.

The strike of the British Columbia salmon fishery, he said, has been planned, had been settled before the phenomenal run had set in, and although the cannery had to pay dearly the fishermen made excellent wages, and the season would probably be attended with good results.

Business in Vancouver and Victoria was good, he said. Many people who went from that province to the Yukon, will, he thinks, come out with good returns. As regards the establishment of office in the Canadian coast cities, he expressed the opinion that a first class line of steamers and Victoria would be just as good as an assay office, and perhaps better to the returning Klondikers to the Canadian towns. Of course, he said, the majority of those who have gone to the Yukon were Americans, and it is but natural that they should return to their own cities. He believed, however, that a line of steamers, may be the best on the coast, as it has the effect of attracting the successful Yukon miners to the cities of Vancouver and Victoria.

He held that the man who had found gold in abundance would quite likely be the best fitted up steamer for his return trip, and if such boats were coming to the Canadian towns they should be liberally patronized, as in the Empress line to and from the Orient.

In reply to another question, Mr. Clouston said he had not changed his mind as to the inadvisability of establishing a Canadian mine, and he added, that there did not appear to be any very pronounced feeling in the matter in the British Columbia. It did not, in Mr. Clouston's opinion, make the least difference to the banks whether a mint were established or not, as the mint interest would not be any more general while paper is to be had in such small denominations. At present, if people desire gold, they can get all they want by applying to the banks.

THE STUART-ARBUHNOT (S).

The manager of the Stuart-Arbutnot Machinery Company reports that his company is exceptionally busy just now supplying machinery for new saw-mills and various other enterprises which the good crops have set on foot in this province. One of their more recent contracts has been a power plant and other machinery for a saw-mill at the head of the Hudson Bay, utilizing O's new works just north of Winnipeg. They have also supplied the boilers of the Hudson Bay, and Leonard & Sons, of London, Ont. They were of 60 horse power each. One of the most important contracts this year was the machinery and power plant for the saw-mill at Lac du Bonnet. This machinery is the most modern obtainable and will be found perfect in every way. So much so that the mill started sawing at once without a hitch after the work of the mill was complete. The capacity 45,000,000 feet per day. The power plant consists of three 90 horse power engines, and a 100 horse engine. The sawmill is used for fuel and is fed automatically to the furnaces from the saws.

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Charlie—(aged 5)—I ain't goin' anywhere.

One—How old are you, Ethel? I'm going to a little girl.

"I'm only 3," replied Ethel with a deep sigh. "I should be to be 3, but I suppose somebody must be to be 3."

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