

encouragement is given to the small proprietor, and it is recognized that the wealth and advancement of the country depend on him. No better illustration of this can be found than in the land-policy of the C. P. R., and the encouragement they give to actual settlers to purchase their farms on the most favorable terms.

Conditions are different in our Province. Our main industries must be developed and operated by huge accumulations of capital. In mining, lumbering, and fishing there are but narrow limits in which the small proprietor can work, and little room for individual enterprise. Even in the development of our lands the man of limited means has a poor opportunity. Where irrigation is needed it must be provided for large sections and requires heavy investments. Land-clearing is so expensive that the man without capital has small chance of success. Here, too, the work is most economically done by strong companies, who can purchase the best machinery and employ large gangs of men. So that all our enterprises must be carried forward on a large scale, and where this is impossible little can be done.

The traditions of the Province are a strange factor in its life. In the early years of its history it was separated by its mountain ranges from the rest of Canada, and developed an atmosphere of its own. Western ideas of liberty took a strong hold of the imagination of the people. Each claimed the privilege of doing what was right in his own eyes, and many of the practices that grew from this root are condemned by the conscience of the country as a whole. Nevertheless, this spirit took possession of many of the new-comers as they arrived. One result is that a number of the towns claim the right to decide what laws they shall enforce, and the criminal law of the Dominion is suspended in different districts by the vote of the majority. Lovers of law and order will appreciate the seriousness of such a situation.

Our geographical position raises still further difficulties. Situated as we are on the outermost edge of the Occident and nearest to the Orient, our ports must ever be the gateway through which Oriental trade and travel will pass to the whole of Canada. Our more moderate climate makes our province attractive to races which shun the rigors of the winters east of the Rockies, so that the immigration question is most serious for us.

These peculiarities and others that might be named, constitute our problem. But they are also our opportunity. They are a challenge to every earnest mind. Their solution will mean a real contribution to the life of the whole country. In the papers that follow we shall mention a few forms that the problem assumes and the steps taken to deal with them.

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Most of the shadows of this life are caused by standing in our own sunshine.

—EMERSON.