

Workers Coming to Canada

With Natural Resources and Plenty of Capital a Population is also Necessary for Development—The Spring Rush of Immigration is Promising.

By B. K. SANDWELL

Developments of the last three months have effectually removed the chief source of uncertainty and concern in regard to the immediate economic future of Canada. Far-sighted students have felt for the past two or three years that the one thing to be feared in the Dominion, as a result of the losses and burdens of the war, was a shortage of population. Great as is Canada's national debt, it is a bagatelle compared with the natural resources and potential productive capacity of the country. But resources and capacity are of no avail without men and women to labor upon them and develop them. There is, it is true, a third requirement in addition to resources and population, viz. capital; but it has been fairly evident for the past two years that capital would be forthcoming for Canada, to whatever extent it might be required to keep pace with the quantity of labor available for application to the country's natural resources. As to the possibility of securing new population, there has been a good deal more uncertainty.

The facts of the spring movement of immigration to Canada and to the United States are now visible, and they seem to show that the volume of such immigration will for some time be limited only by the capacity of the steamship companies for handling it. The facilities for inspecting and forwarding immigrants at the Atlantic ports, both of Canada and of the United States, are being taxed to their utmost capacity. The exact figures for the Canadian entries are not yet available, but the most casual glance at the traffic on the Montreal water-front, and in the great railway stations, is sufficient to show that the records of the old days of 1910 and 1913 are being equalled if not excelled. In New York it is stated that nine thousand immigrants reached the port in a single recent week, and the chief of the Ellis Island station gives it as his opinion that there would have been more, if there had been more ships to carry them.

Why the New World Looks Attractive.

Nor is this movement surprising when we consider how lightly this continent has been touched by the economic ruin and disturbance of the war. It is evident that to a very large part of the population of Europe the North American continent now appeals with a glamour which it did not possess even in the earliest and brightest days of economic progress in the United States, before men had begun to realize that even a new country could develop problems of its own. America is now the land of least disturbed economic and financial conditions, the land of sound and stable money, the land of moderate taxation, the land where political institutions seem to offer most prospect of stability and security. As such, this continent, and Canada in particular, seems to appeal with very great force to individuals of that sound intelligence and capable middle class which, in England, as well as in other European countries, has been so disproportionately handicapped in the struggle for the readjustment of war burdens. Members of this class, men and women of good education and strong character are seeking the Canadian West and British Columbia in large numbers. A decade or so ago, they would not perhaps have been welcomed quite so cordially; but a decade or so ago they would have been very different people, and much less desirable immigrants. The war has imparted to all of them a greatly increased power of adaptability, a

greater confidence in their own capacity to meet new conditions, a greater experience of the way in which new conditions have to be met.

Immigrants via the United States.

So far as the wave of immigration is directed towards the United States, it holds out almost as much prospect of ultimate benefit to Canada as if it came to our own country. The United States has reached a point of moderate saturation, in regard to population. It is an exporter of people, as well as an importer. The more new citizens it receives through its Eastern gateways, the more new citizens will it send to Canada across the imaginary boundary that runs through the Western prairies. It is not altogether a loss to Canada that the process of acclimatizing some of these new arrivals to the institutions and habits of thought of this continent should be partly performed by the neighboring republic.

Canadian Made "Aspirin"

If there is one pharmaceutical product more than another which has been brought to the front in every possible way, it is the German product "aspirin." This chemical acetylsalicylic acid, has attained such a remarkable consumption that there is a permanent world demand for it.

During the war, quantity production was established in Toronto, after some considerable experimental work, by the Chemical Products of Canada, Ltd. What was accomplished then was a distinct credit to the technical men who undertook to establish this particular industry here.

Generally speaking Canada did not find herself in a position where she could compete in world markets in many synthetic organic chemicals. In this particular line, however, we are observing at the present time one of the biggest undertakings which has been started in this country, and Canada bids fair to become one of the largest producers in the world of a product which was at one time a German monopoly.

Most of our munition plants have been torn down, but the Trenton plant of the Imperial Munition was sold and remained for the most part as the war left it. This plant, with its capacity for producing heavy acids, made an ideal location for large scale chemical operations. The Chemical Products of Canada, Ltd., having demonstrated that they could make certain chemicals and compete world markets, have undertaken to produce a world's supply of some of these at Trenton, Ont. With the technical and financial backing that is available, there is little doubt but that the organized Chemical Products, Limited, will, in a short time, be not only shipping to all foreign countries, but may even be commanding the market.

New chemical industries are among those that do not impress the average Canadian sufficiently. His lack of knowledge or achievement has made him unprogressive. This stage should have passed with the war. Canadian chemists were called upon to create "impossible" industries right in our own cities, and without fail they overcame all difficulties and supplied the allies with large quantities of necessary materials. This part of Canada's war record has never been widely written, but the fruits of it are very evident in the

Large Fuel Oil Company Forming.

According to recent advices from Sweden, a large Scandinavian company is being formed with branches in Sweden, Norway and Denmark to handle the importation and sale of petroleum products, especially fuel oils. Little detailed information is available but it is understood that the principal stockholders in the company are large shipowners and oil-using manufacturers.

In-so-far as Sweden is concerned, the plan is to erect tanks along the Swedish coast to supply oil-burning vessels plying the main shipping routes. It is reported also that a Swedish company with a capital of 8,000,000 kroner has been formed to build fuel oil bunkering stations for the supply of which preliminary arrangements have been made with American oil producers. Minor storing stations also are projected for local use in the fishery and other industries.

It is interesting to note that Swedish importation of petroleum products, especially from the United States, has increased on a large scale. The United States is the chief source of these products for Swedish usage. It is believed also that the coal fuel situation, together with the increasing use of motor cars, tractors and motor-driven machinery, will extend consumption of these products.

expanding chemical industries of the Dominion.

With the new equipment and using well-tried processes, free from any patent entanglements, the Chemical Products Co. anticipate producing 1,080,000 lbs. of acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin) per annum. The world uses about 6,000,000 lbs. a year, with an apparently increasing demand.

The strategic value of a Canadian location for such an industry is apparent when the open American market (both North and South), is considered, as well as the British Empire and Eastern countries. China alone consumes 1,500,000 lbs. of aspirin per annum; Russia 1,000,000 lbs.

When the scientific method of development is been very few failures, and it should be with a followed from the laboratory to the plant, and then to expanded plant, there have distinct sense gratification that Canadians view the revived Trenton Munition Plant producing a chemical product in quantities sufficient to camouflage most spectacular chemical industries.

It is but a very short time since this same plant was producing commodities as injurious to German life as its new product will be to one of Germany most spectacular Chemical industries.

To think that Canada may become a contender in the world's markets for aspirin, with every chance of dominating the field, is certainly seeing things from a new angle. In fact, for those who understand its significance, it is indeed a sign that we are getting on.—From the Official Journal of Canadian Institute of Chemistry.

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DIVIDEND No. 73.

A dividend of 1 per cent upon the paid up capital stock of the Company has been declared payable on the 16th of June, 1920 on which date cheques will be mailed to shareholders of record at the close of business on the 4th of June, 1920.

Dated the 28th day of May, 1920.

D. A. DUNLOP,
Secretary.