

The Tide Has Turned.

Time was when Canada annually sent a large number of people to the United States. From the older settled districts of this country and the United States there is a steady stream of emigration toward the new regions of the west. There are many persons who for one reason or another desire to move. A family of young men grow up in the east, and as each one cannot possess the old homestead at home, there must be a scattering to distant parts, and naturally the face is turned toward the new West. The large number of farmers who operate rented farms in the east also have a longing to come out and possess land of their own in the west. As the older portions of eastern Canada became more closely settled, the stream of emigration began to flow out, and their choice as a rule was the western states. The only new districts at home which they could go up and possess were the heavily wooded and somewhat rugged regions of northern Ontario. To locate in the northern sections of the province named, meant a home in the backwoods, distant from railways. It meant long years of arduous toil in clearing the land and preparing it for cultivation, and it would be a lifetime almost before the country would be opened up and the comforts and conveniences of civilization brought in. Some indeed selected lands in the northern regions of their own province, and gradually the forest region to the north has been encroached upon, but the great majority went to the western states. At this time these states were being opened up to settlement and railways were being extended rapidly throughout the region. The country was prairie or mixed prairie, and to the new settler it presented none of the hardships which must be endured in hewing out a home in the forests of northern Ontario. These western states were at this time being extensively advertised throughout Canada, and nothing too good could be said about the country as a field for settlement. With no new districts at home open for settlement but the backwoods, it is therefore no wonder that thousands of our young men and middle aged men found their way to the great El dorado of the west.

Then followed the opening of what is now Western Canada for settlement, and during the last decade or two the stream of immigration from the old districts of eastern Canada has been turned mainly into this new portion of the Dominion. Still, since the opening of Manitoba and the west to settlement there have been a reduced number of Canadians going to the States, due perhaps to the fact that their friends had gone before them. The last year, however, has witnessed quite a change in the movement of emigration on this continent, and now the very region which a few years ago was drawing so many Canadians from their homes to a foreign land, is sending quite a stream of settlers to Canada. Last season a movement set in which has already resulted in adding considerably to the population of western Canada. This was nothing less than the settlement here of quite a number of families from the states to the south. Previous to last year a few families had come in, but it was not until last season that the movement began to assume such pro-

portions as to attract attention. Many of these new settlers were persons who had moved from eastern Canada to the western states, before the Canadian west was opened for settlement. They have not found the country to be the land of milk and honey which it was represented to them by the agents of railway corporations and other interested individuals, and now they are again seeking a home in the new Canadian west.

Last year a number of persons from the Dakotas and other states visited Manitoba and the Canadian territories, coming as delegates to spy out the land and report to their friends at home. In every instance these delegates were more than pleased with what they saw here, and their reports have invariably been very eulogistic of our country, describing it as a most desirable field for settlement. These visits of last year have borne fruit in bringing an increased number of settlers to us this spring from the south. Already this spring some parties of delegates have arrived from the States, one party coming from Michigan and another party from the far eastern state of Maine. These delegates have reported favorably, and we may now expect a number of settlers from these states as a result of the visits.

It now seems that the tide has fairly turned, and instead of sending annually a large number of persons to the States, we may look for a considerable inflow of population from the republic to Western Canada. As stated, quite a number of those who have already come, are Canadians who moved to the States years ago, but they are not all Canadians. Canadians will be welcomed back again, but other citizens of the republic who choose to make Canada their home, will also be as freely welcomed. Coming here they will come among a people who speak their own language and whose customs are similar. Here they will enjoy every advantage of free institutions, liberal and enlightened government, education, etc., which it is possible to enjoy in any portion of the great republic. They can make themselves at home at once, and fall in line and be one with us, for they are already educated in our language and civilization.

There is no reason why Western Canada should not share in a portion of the large stream of population which is constantly flowing from the eastern to the western states. A stream of immigration from some of the western states has already been turned in this direction, and an effort should be made to increase it, and also to induce some of those moving from the eastern states to come here. The way matters look now, there would appear to be no more promising field wherein to seek settlers for our broad prairies, than in the United States, both east and west. It is worthy of consideration, if it would not be more profitable to work this field thoroughly, than to spend time and money seeking settlers in some European countries. We can hope for no better class of settlers than those who would come from the United States, and quality is of vastly more importance than quantity, in this matter of immigration. Those who are not likely to succeed here, we do not want at all. The knowledge which those coming from the States

would possess, as to the mode of farming on this continent, would give them an advantage over most European settlers.

British Columbia.

The British Columbia legislature prorogued on Saturday, April 23rd.

The total amount collected so far in Victoria for the relief of the Russian starving peasantry is \$1,223 55.

An effort is being made to establish a local board of management of the Great Western Life Insurance Company, of Winnipeg, at Victoria.

The ss. Empress of Japan was announced to sail on the 27th of April for the Orient, and hereafter one of the Empresses will depart every three weeks.

The townsite of Sproat has been purchased by a syndicate of Victoria capitalists, who paid for it \$3,000 cash. The land will be surveyed and platted as a townsite right away.

A company is said to be in course of formation with the object of establishing a floating dry dock at Vancouver. The dock, if it is built, will be made large enough to accommodate any of the vessels which come into that port.

An order-in-council just passed throws open the agricultural lands in Kamloops land agency for homesteading by actual settlers. The Kamloops agency extends for twenty miles on each side of the Canadian Pacific railway from Dry-nock, 79 miles west of Kamloops, to the eastern boundary of Stephen.

It is said that a syndicate of English and Victoria capitalists have procured a working bond on the Whitewater gold mine on Rover Creek, about ten miles from Nelson. The purchase price is \$30,000. It is the intention to place a stamp mill on the ground as soon as sufficient work has been done to warrant the outlay.

Nelson Miner: Every prospector who returns from the Slocan country is enthusiastic about that section; but it is not every one who brings such ample grounds for enthusiasm as R. J. Kirkwood did this week. From his recently located claim about four miles below Carpenter Creek and two miles from the lake shore, Mr. Kirkwood has brought down a chunk of rock which assays 300 ounces in silver and 58 per cent. lead; the ledge being traceable for many hundred feet."

An exchange says: "The prospects for the construction of the Victoria and Sydney Railway, with mainland connections, some time during the present year are believed to be good, and, it is said, on terms advantageous to Victoria. The Provincial Government is expected to guarantee the interest on a portion of the Railway Company's bonds, which the city of Victoria will be asked to supplement with further guarantee bonds. The total guarantee will probably be \$250,000, of which the Government will guarantee one half."

Every one almost in British Columbia knows or knew of Henry Fry, J.P., of Cowichan, who has been connected with the history of the province for over 30 years, and the regret at the news of his death, which occurred on Saturday, April 16th, at Duncan's Station, will be