

and as a consequence, a class was assisted with Canadian money to land on these shores and were forwarded to the West, who only intended to take advantage of this assistance to get so far, and then cross over to the United States. We will not say that the same evil now exists, although there is still great room for improvement. The time has arrived when a very different system must be adopted for the settlement of this vast country to that which has hitherto been pursued, so that the public money shall not be wasted in assisting paupers to immigrate, and thus fruitlessly expended—but on the contrary, that every dollar expended shall prove the means of colonizing the country with an industrious and intelligent people who will settle on its soil, and lay the foundation of greater prosperity in the future.

But, before encouraging or assisting any class of immigrants to this country, it is but just and patriotic that we should first turn our attention to the best means of providing for our own unemployed population; not by any temporary employment, which only exhausts the exchequer and gives no return, but in a way that will give permanent and satisfactory results. To accomplish this every reasonable assistance should be given to these people to become settlers on the fertile lands of the West. By so doing a great weight of poverty would be taken off the land, and from a poverty-stricken people, often driven to crime from their misery and hardships, we could create a new class, who, in a few years, would become extensive cultivators of the soil, and not only add to the revenue of the country by their consumption of its imports, but materially assist our manufactures from the demand that would be annually increasing for agricultural implements. This is the first step that should be taken by the Government towards the relief of those mechanics and laborers who are suffering now so severely from the present depressed state of commercial affairs. The withdrawal of a portion of these from the mechanical branches of industry to become agriculturists, would never be felt by the manufacturers, but would only tend to their future advantage. The progress of invention is now so rapid and machinery can be brought to such perfection, that where five men were wanted ten years ago, two will now suffice, and the inventive genius of the people is really only beginning to develop itself. It would be madness for mechanics, with the present prospect before them, to hang about cities and towns in the expectation of better times coming. No *National Policy*—no ability in the land, however high it may be, can alter, with the stroke of a magician's wand, the present state of affairs. The Government can, and *will* do all that is possible to ameliorate and bring about a more healthy state of business, and do all that can be done to restore public confidence and set money again in circulation; but those who hang on in idleness, in the hope that prosperity will suddenly return, will most assuredly be disappointed. Do not wait therefore for times to mend, but take to the axe and plough, and the sooner the better for yourselves. Fortunately for Canada, she has a vast advantage over European nations, for she is yet in her infancy, and a splendid field of independence awaits every young man who has health, spirit and perseverance enough to go into the forest, or on prairie lands, and build up a home for himself. If a married man, he will see a bright future before him; and should he have a family, every child, instead of being a burthen, will be a help. Every

son, as he grows up, will be able to obtain the same independence by following in the footsteps of his father. Can any mechanic expect as much with the prospect before him as he now stands, or can he discern in the gloom what may become of him in his old age, or of his family?

The construction of the Pacific Railroad, as we may judge by the Governor-General's opening speech to Parliament, may now be considered as fully decided upon, with such a majority in favor of the ministry. Here then will be a fine opportunity for thousands of our unemployed to settle along that fertile track of land through which the railroad will pass. The finest land in the whole Dominion, and the finest climate in it also, are to be found in that region which lies along the Great Saskatchewan valley, and the tributaries of the Saskatchewan river, and in that extensive plain of rich fertile land bordering on the Peace river. No finer soil is to be found, according to every report brought to us; and when the road is commenced the Government will have a good opportunity to win greater popularity by giving every reasonable assistance to settlers to colonize that district under a thoroughly organized and practical system.

We have never been believers in that method of colonizing a country by encouraging to it a class of immigrants who are totally unfitted, by habits or education, to become settlers, and then to leave them, after they arrive, to their own resources, to get on the best way they can. We have always considered it a species of refined cruelty to induce immigration to this country of a class who are totally unable to withstand the rigour of a first year's winter exposure in the bush; not that the hardship or cold is so excessive, but many of those who come here are so differently nurtured, and are so much at a loss for resources to overcome difficulties, which to a native would be but a trifling matter. New comers require to be educated by efficient and intelligent agents, who should have charge of districts, and be constantly visiting the new colony, advising and instructing in the best ways to turn everything to the most profitable account—how to cultivate the soil to the best advantage, and to obtain in the easiest and quickest way a return for labor. It is just as necessary for the welfare of the Dominion that judicious assistance should be given to new settlers on wild lands, who take these lands without means, but on certain conditions of payment, as it is to educate our children or to assist agricultural schools. We feel confident that by the adoption of a proper system, and under trained and intelligent superintendents, the Immigration Department of this country could be made the source of much of its future greatness; in fact, such is the extent of the field of operation before us, that a new Bureau might with advantage be made, under the title of the Colonization Department. To lay down any rules for the guidance or for the formation of such a department, if ever created, would be unnecessary here. This fact, however, must sooner or later force itself upon the minds of our rulers—if we wish to grow in numbers and prosper—that some more energetic steps must be taken to colonize the country, from East to West, with a good class of settlers, and that every dollar, so expended for the future, shall bring back a hundred fold.

It must not be supposed, however, from the foregoing observations, that we are adverse to receiving immigrants from the mother or any other country, who voluntarily