

the market, but even at this reduction purchases can be made more advantageously in Canada. The company erect substantial cottages on the property for the farm hands, and at the end of five years give the option of purchase at a fair valuation to the occupants. Small farms will also be disposed of from time to time out of the large parcel of land covered by the company. Mr. Eberts expects that operations this season will be most successful, the seeding has been completed remarkably early, and the harvest promises to be bountiful, an average of 25 bushels to the acre being counted upon.

CANADA IN SCOTLAND.

VALUABLE TESTIMONY IN FAVOUR OF THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

Below we republish from the Aberdeen Evening Express of the 12th ult. the substance of the report of the annual meeting of the North of Scotland Mortgage Co. in Aberdeen. Mr. Barclay, M.P., the Company's chairman, had opposed investment of the company's funds in the Canadian North-West until more was known of the country. In his speech to the shareholders at the annual meeting, Mr. Barclay explained that he and other officers of the company visited the North-West during 1882 and were entirely satisfied with the prospects before the country and now recommend loaning on properties in that quarter. His statements supply valuable testimony to the merits of the country.

Mr. Barclay, after explaining that the margins of profit for 1883 had been increased by £1,000 over 1882, said:—

On previous occasions I expressed an adverse opinion to the extent that we required to be better informed before the position and real character of that country before we considered it expedient to send such a large amount up to the manager on mortgage as would meet the increased expenditure which must necessarily be made. The rate of interest in Canada during the last two years up till within the last six months has been gradually getting lower. The people in Ontario have become richer, they have been receiving of a large amount of their municipal and township debentures, and consequently there was a great demand for suitable investments for trust money. The competition was so great, but during the last six months we have been getting out a satisfactory amount of money at fair rates of interest. But this has been principally due to the great pressure for money in Canada, and a pressure which is only of a temporary character. We may expect that after another good harvest or two the rate of interest will tend to get lower in Ontario, and we thought it well to be looking out in time before the necessity actually did arise, so that we may be prepared to meet the circumstances. I myself and the board resolved that we should not extend their operations to Manitoba until some of the officials of the company should see the country, and judge for themselves. Well, in last autumn the secretary and I went to the North-West. We did not go in company. The secretary was attended by Mr. Nanton of Toronto office, a gentleman who has been chief in the offices under the agents for several years, and a man in whom I place very great confidence. I was accompanied by Mr. Oaler, and we went out at different times and saw different parts of the country. As you are aware, if not previously ascertained, the North-West, I myself at least, was satisfied that it was an eligible country for settlement, and very possibly it would not have been accepted without considerable doubt the statements made by any other person, which I am going to make respecting that country. There were two, as I supposed, facts which would seem to me very difficult to explain away before the North-West could be an eligible country for settlement. One was the difficulty in respect to water, and the other was the severity of the climate. Well, we went to the North-West, got a little farther west than we have any intention of loaning, and we made it our business to ascertain what the disadvantages of that country might be. We made inquiry of all the farmers we came in contact with, and I had also the advantage of a conversation with a gentleman who was sent out by another large company, and I think I may say absolutely that I did not meet any farmer or any person in the North-West who was dissatisfied with the country, and I could not hear that any number of farmers had returned to the "Fling" in Manitoba. The water was certainly not plentiful, such as we are accustomed to perhaps in Desdieu, but there is no difficulty regarding it. In all districts I passed, so far as I could learn, sufficient good water could be obtained by sinking wells from 30 to 40 feet deep. Then there are nodoubt

places, particularly in Southern Manitoba, where the water is not of a satisfactory character, and where difficulty exists as to getting fresh water, but there are difficulties of some kind in all countries, and in the case of that North-West at least, I came to the conclusion that the water difficulty, except that it might be in certain limited areas, was not a serious obstacle in the way of a settlement in the country. We were told also that the winter was extremely severe, and no doubt in one sense it is. I think it may be accepted that the winter is in the ground sufficiently strong to prevent ploughing somewhere about six months in the year, but the farmers with whom I spoke about the severity said it did not produce any serious inconvenience. One farmer there told me that he had come from Desdieu, and experienced far worse winters there than he had done in the North-West Territory. Several farmers stated their preference of the climate of the North-West to that of Ontario, and I am quite prepared to accept that statement. A serious difficulty which presented itself to me was—when I was with the farmers plough the land and seed it, and my visit to the North-West has satisfied me on that point. The land is exceedingly easily wrought, and I believe that a farmer with his own hand and with the assistance of perhaps two men for a month in summer can plough, sow, and reap, at least 100 acres of crop. As regards the quality of the crops produced, there are samples of various products here before me, which I think will speak for themselves, and our friend Mr. White will be able to tell you that the wheat he produced there is as fine as produced anywhere in the world. I have come to the conclusion, after visiting the North-West, that they can produce wheat very much cheaper than anywhere else in America where I have been. No doubt they are a considerable distance away from the market, but that will be counterbalanced by the superior quality of the wheat, and the return per acre is larger than in any other part of America. I consider it is quite safe to lend money on land in the North-West Territory, of course, within certain areas, and perhaps, safer than it was to lend money 10 years ago in the Province of Ontario. I do not hesitate to recommend the shareholders to extend the operations of the company to Manitoba as soon as they are able to make what they consider satisfactory arrangements for the prudent conduct of the company's business. I am very much pleased to extend the operations of the meeting, but the directors thought it courteous to the shareholders to acquaint themselves with the matter before taking any actual steps for extending the business, and they will consider any suggestion made by the shareholders.

After the Chairman had dealt with some other features of the company's business and some formal questions had been put, Mr. James Milne, C. A., in seconding a motion regarding the appointment of auditors said:—

He thought the directors were wisely going to extend their operations to fresh fields and pastures virgin green. [Applause.] If any one of them wished independent testimony he thought they would find very satisfactory reasons given with great clearness and ability, and at the same time with great sobriety, by the Marquis of Lorne, the late Governor General of the Dominion, and by Mr. Peacock Edwards, the commissioner for Lady Gordon Cathcart of Cluny, in speeches they made at Glasgow. There was also corroborative testimony in the joint report made by Mr. Ronald Macdonald, the factor for Cluny, and Mr. E. Edwards.

Mr. Alexander Forbes moved a vote of thanks to the gentlemen who constituted the Advising Board in Canada, which was seconded by Mr. William Alexander, supported by the chair, and unanimously agreed to.

Mr. J. F. White acknowledged the compliment, and in the course of some remarks said that although he had spoken at that time last year against the North-West, he had been converted by the superior quality of wheat and it was merely a question of time when these splendid districts would produce a very large supply of wheat of the very finest quality. [Applause.]

So the good work of conversion goes bravely on. Day by day, in Britain and Europe generally, as in America, the more that is known of the Canadian North-West, the more highly it is thought of, and the closer the examination the more satisfactory the opinions formed of the country. The strongest and most convincing testimony comes from the people who have been there, and who are accustomed to the conditions against it and returned to praise, as in the case of Mr. Barclay, a member of their Imperial Parliament, and chairman of an important Scotch financial company.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The moralists of all ages have denounced the use of intoxicating drinks as most demoralizing.

The year 1883 was the most hopeful the temperance cause in Great Britain has ever known.

Sir H. Thompson and Dr. Richardson declare that there is no greater cause of evil—moral or physical—than the use of alcohol.

The licensed victualler is usually a state authorized drunkard manufacturer, though he was intended originally as an authorized caterer to a legitimate public want.

Ten million bottles of spirits are distributed annually by the grocers of Great Britain. Will some arithmetician tell us the aggregate amount of unhappiness this represents in the homes of the Mother Land?

It is the testimony of a majority of those disbursing the funds of charitable associations to the poor, that most of the misery and want brought to their knowledge has its origin in the intemperate habits of the sufferers.

In New York State about 20,000 voters usually decide between the two political parties. In 1882 the temperance vote reached 26,000. The lesson taught by these figures to the prohibitionists of that State is unmistakable.

Wonderful accounts are arriving from Calgary of the mineral virtues of the Rocky Mountains and of the great finds of copper and other ores in that region. If these stories turn out to be correct, a rush to the Mountains may be anticipated next spring.

The crops at Prince Albert have turned out much better, both as to quantity and quality, than was at one time expected. Good wheat sells at 75c. to \$1. cots, 50c. and barley, 35c. Large quantities of flour are being shipped to Battledore.—*Globe, January 23rd, 1884.*

The records of the Dominion Land office give the most detailed possession of the status of the Dominion of the North-West to the effect that the country is being settled. They all show tremendous increases in the number of homestead and pre-emption entries for 1882 over 1881. During 1881 the total entries made in seven land offices were 2,753 homesteads and 1,647 pre-emptions, 792,354 acres in all. In 1882 one office, that of Regina, makes the following excellent showing: Homesteads entered..... 2,368 Pre-emption entries..... 1,843 Acres covered..... 637,700

The total entries for one office in 1882 thus came within 300 of the total for the seven offices the year before.

The Regina Leader says the business transacted at the Dominion Land Office in that section of country, during the past year, gives a very good idea of the progress of settlement. A comparison is made with the number of entries in 1881, supposed to be a boom year, and with results in favour of last year. Mr. Gordon, the Dominion Lands Agent, reports that during the year ended 31st October, 2,268 homesteads and 1,843 pre-emption entries, covering 608,700 acres were granted. In the year, 1881, the returns of seven offices show the total entries to have been 2,753 homesteads, and 1,647 pre-emptions, or an area of 702,354 acres. Last year, when the country was swarming with settlers and almost everyone seeking a location, the greatest number of entries made at any office was 1,641, or 627 less than the Regina office returns show for this year.

The beneficial influence of the opening of the Thunder Bay section of the Canadian Pacific Railway continues to be exemplified in the cutting of all rail rates in the United States roads. The lines of the North-West Traffic Association and the St. Paul & Minnesota Railway have announced that they will assume the charges made by the United States Customs officers at Port Huron and St. Vincent; that is they will pay the fees for bonding, entry and cancellation of bonding certificates, which have been heretofore charged to the shippers, and the rates quoted are intended to cover the entire cost of transportation through to destination. The shipments will be made all rail and without breaking bulk until the delivery is made in Manitoba. The paying of all bonding charges by the railways is an effort to still retain the Ontario business, as by the Lake Superior route no bonding is necessary.