

that, for some reason, the large centres of population have been gaining at the expense of the rural districts. This state of things is not peculiar to Canada, as migration of the kind has also been going on for many years in the United Kingdom; but the same causes are not at work in both countries, although there are some points of similarity. The growth of the manufacturing industry, and the higher wages obtaining in the towns are no doubt the principal magnets in each case, and the improvement in agricultural machinery has also led to a lessened demand for labour. But there the comparison stops. Land-hunger does not exist in Canada: any quantity of unoccupied land may be acquired in the older provinces; the farmers are, as a rule, comfortably off: there are no heavy rents, taxes, or tithes to pay; and as regards labourers, the difference between the urban and rural wages is not so marked as in England. Many of the farms are mortgaged it is true, but the money so raised is used as working capital, and, if the interest is paid upon it and something gained also in addition to living-expenses, which, as a rule, is the case, it is certainly no hardship on the farmer. The true explanation of the slow numerical progress of the farming community in the eastern parts of the Dominion is found in the fact that the unappropriated land, available for settlement, is, to a great extent, covered with forest or stumps, and has to be cleared before it can be cultivated. Even young Canadians, apparently, are not willing to undertake the hard work which must be endured before a comfortable farm can be established in such circumstances, although they can see around them evidence of what can be done, in the beautiful homesteads which were won from the forest by their fathers and grandfathers. And, on the other hand, immigrants from Europe, and especially those from the United Kingdom, are not advised to make a start under conditions of the kind, unless in a position to hire labour for the work of clearing. The Canadian farmers may be doing fairly well, but they are not always in a position to buy farms for their grown-up sons, who may have a predilection for agriculture; and as the rising generation looks askance on the forest land, which may be obtained for nothing, or next to nothing, it is not an uncommon thing for the farm to be sold, and for the whole family to go west, to recommence their life on the prairies, which the proceeds of the sale enables them to do in comparative comfort, and on a much larger scale than they have been accustomed to. There is no such ardent attachment to the land in Canada as one is accustomed to find among old-country agriculturists, and a man does not mind passing on to fresh woods and pastures new, if there is a little money or some other advantage, to be gained by the change.

The farms vacated in the way described are disposed of to other local land-owners or to new arrivals. Many men who emigrate for