

finer crops, finer cattle, or finer people than I have during my tour through Manitoba, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. One of the most curious and striking things I have met with is the amusement with which these people here regard the British dread of the Canadian winter."

Government Salaries

THE question of increasing the salaries of the members of Government, and those holding the more important Government positions has been mooted more than once during the past few years, and has been revived again in connection with the appointment of the Railway Commission. The Chief Commissioner is to receive \$10,000 a year, and his two colleagues \$8,000 each, a remuneration that would appear to be ample and even generous. It is in fact higher than the salaries paid even to ministers and judges, and the common people will consider the new offices quite well enough rewarded. When it is remembered, however, that the position is one which calls for expert knowledge, and that the men who have this knowledge, and are thus best fitted to be of service to the country, already hold business positions that are more profitable, the offer made to them by the Government loses something of its generousness. Sir William Van Horne declined the chairmanship of the Commission because his business duties would not leave him the necessary time; it is quite well understood, although he did not put it so bluntly himself, that Sir William Van Horne's time is worth more than \$10,000 a year, and that he could not afford to sacrifice his personal interests to such an extent, even for the good of the country. The money value of ability must be recognized.

It is becoming more generally believed that the Government ministers and the judges of our courts are underpaid, and that the whole system of salaries needs revision. The Premier of Canada, the chief Government official, receives a salary far short of the value of his services, a mere \$8,000. The expenses necessarily involved in the higher positions make heavy inroads upon their allowances, and it is a matter of

fact that statesmen usually die poor. In comparison, the leaders in the business world are much better remunerated. As chairman of the C.P.R. managing board, Sir William Van Horne receives \$35,000; Mr. Hays, manager of the Grand Trunk, is said to have a salary of \$40,000; the president of the United States Steel Corporation gets \$75,000, and the manager of the Soo industries \$50,000; several of the banks pay their presidents from \$20,000 to \$30,000. Government is more arduous than ordinary business, and should be at least equally remunerated. There are still, it is true, what are sometimes called "Government snaps," with which more or less abuse of political privileges is usually connected, but the positions of real importance in the government of Canada mean a great amount of work and only a comparatively small remuneration.

Negroes as Immigrants

THERE is said to be some likelihood of an influx of negro immigrants into Canada from the Southern States. A negro organization known as the Order of St. Luke has been seeking for years to remedy the wrongs of the race, chief of which are the numerous lynchings and the unjustifiable suspicion with which the blacks are looked upon by the whites. The Order has devised a way of escape from these evils, namely, to migrate to Canada, and there make negro settlements, where they may be at peace. Branches of the Order are to be organized in a number of Canadian and American cities, and a mutual benefit system will be inaugurated to transport and settle their brethren in the Canadian west. The scheme has fair chances of success, and will probably be set in operation very shortly.

Canada can absorb nearly all classes of people, except bad people. There is some doubt, however, whether the experiment of negro colonies is one which it is desirable should succeed. Separate colonies have heretofore not been fully successful, and in any case the aim of the Canadian immigration policy is not to establish separate settlements, but to make Canadian citizens