

IMMIGRATION.

MEMORABLE REMARKS BY THE HEIR APPARENT.

The replies made by the Duke of Cornwall and York to the addresses presented to His Royal Highness in Canada were all of them characterized by elevation of tone, by deep appreciation of the loyal expressions he heard, and thankful acknowledgments of the manifestations of loyalty he witnessed. The Duke's replies were as admirable for what was said, as they were for their delicate avoidance of all questions capable of being misconstrued into offence. In one reply to an address presented in the North-West, the Duke appears to have spoken more spontaneously than elsewhere, for, of course, the more formal replies had been all carefully prepared. The one before us has local colouring; it shows marks of being inspired by recent sights during his journey, and it alludes directly and most significantly to manifest local conditions. The Prince said:—

"We have been greatly interested in our journey through this boundless land, rich and fertile in soil, and great in its possibilities of development. We look forward to the time when it may be the home of a great, prosperous and loyal people, contrasting the free, healthy and useful life which is followed in this country with the narrow, and alas, too often, unwholesome existence of the thousands in our great cities at home. One cannot help wishing that the prospects here offered were more widely known and more freely taken advantage of."

In those few words are summed up a complete statement of the Immigration question, with a very wise suggestion as to the policy to be pursued for solving this problem, the solution of which is vital to the advancement of Canada. The Prince recognized the capacity of the North-West to provide homes for a great, prosperous and loyal people. The contrast he drew between the free, healthy and useful life of settlers on the boundless, rich and fertile lands of Canada and the unwholesome existence of thousands in the great cities of the old land naturally suggested the hope which the Duke expressed, that the prospects offered in Canada were "more widely known" and "more freely taken advantage of" by the people in Great Britain.

These royal words—royal in wisdom as in their source—can hardly fail to have a powerful effect in England; they will reach thousands of readers to whom Canada is still a *terra incognita*, a land which, to a large element of the home population, is a mere geographical expression. The Duke's words suggest what is required for a successful immigration policy. There needs first the making "more widely known" the advantages of Canada as a place for settlement; second, the placing on our boundless, rich and fertile soil of those who seek to establish

homes thereon. The work of advertising Canada in this sense has never been thoroughly organized, nor have the requisite measures been adopted to bring a tide of immigration to enrich our North-West with a supply of cultivators of the soil. There may be one exception quoted in the case of the Russian immigrants, the Doukhobors, of whom good reports are being published, as they are said to be having English taught their children, and are encouraging young men to spread out apart from the original settlement. Canada, however, would prefer to have British subjects. Such she would have were the essential means adopted.

To present a picture of the advantages of settlement in the North-West to an assemblage of British people is, to a great extent, a mockery. They have not the money required to get there, nor to start farm life, even if they manage to pay their travelling expenses. The present appeals are, practically, made only to men who have capital enough to do fairly well at home, or who, like many "ne'er do wells," have gone to the North-West to farm, but have stayed to loaf, at the expense of relatives at home. An immigration policy to be effective must attract thousands of those the Duke alluded to, by offering them, at least, free transportation to the region where they are desired to settle, where they would have openings for "a free, healthy and useful life." The best cultivated farm district in Ontario, between Guelph and Hamilton, was settled by weavers from Paisley. It is not necessary to be an expert farmer to begin life as a settler in the North-West. If a man has a fair measure of physical strength, a good share of common sense and a full supply of industrious habits, he will very quickly reap the advantages of a North-West farm. If he is without these, his money will soon disappear and himself with it. The entire immigration agency system needs remodelling and enlarging. The agents in Great Britain and Europe should be equipped with authority to make definite offers to would-be emigrants to induce them to leave their native land for settlement in one with more promising prospects for themselves and their offspring. Now that the government has so large a revenue in excess of current expenditures, and the great works of the country are practically complete, at least for some years, the policy of giving financial assistance to an immigration scheme might well be entered upon. Such a policy would be seed sown in good ground; it would be missing for a time, but harvest days would come when the settlers brought out would be "a great, prosperous and loyal people," contributing to the building up of this Canada of ours, and aiding in the development of its wealth.