

one of her most valuable national assets, she must at once follow in the examples of these two countries.

Western Progress and Prospects

A HARVEST that will astonish the world is the report which comes from Western Canada. A greatly increased area of land was sown last spring in the prairie country, and with the best of weather conditions a record crop is expected. The wheat yield this year is estimated at 85,000,000 bushels, which means a surplus for export that will greatly increase Canada's prestige as the granary of the world. Record crops for three years in succession will, moreover, attract increased immigration to the West, for fertility of land and immunity from climatic disasters are the two great essentials of a successful wheat-growing country. Canada's claims to these conditions are being proven by annual facts.

Mention was made a short time ago in these pages of an important experiment in immigration which was being made by a band of English colonists under the management of Rev. Mr. Barr. The enterprise has since failed to work out in the way originally planned, and the colony as a distinct settlement has been disbanded. This is not, however, in any way an industrial failure, but is merely the failure of executive plans that subsequent experience proved to be unsuited to the conditions. The English colonists who came with the intention of forming a separate settlement of their own, self-contained and independent, were altogether unacquainted with Canadian methods and necessities, and their communal system was more theoretic than practical. It was, however, to their credit that they very quickly found this out, and with a discreetness that other foreigners would not have had, decided, after seeing, to abandon their colony plans and to cast in their lot with their fellow-British neighbors, the Canadians. About one-third of the number have taken homesteads at Saskatoon, the original site of the colony, and the remainder have settled in groups of from ten to forty families among Canadian settlers in adjacent sections of the country. Many of the

younger men have apprenticed themselves to Canadian farmers, to learn at first hand the secrets of success in a new land. Thus while the initial plans of the Barr enterprise have collapsed, the turn which they have taken will undoubtedly result better for both the colonists and the country. This will probably be the last attempt at "personally conducted" colonization; there is a strong feeling that such movements should in future be under the management of the Government and its agents, since it is essentially a Government duty to ensure the success of Canadian immigrants.

The National Capital

THERE is a movement on foot to make the Capital City of Canada a capital more worthy of the nation. Ottawa is at present an overgrown town rather than the dignified capital which the seat of Canadian Government should be, and it has long been felt that our national pride should more strongly assert itself in the way of improving the city's appearance. As cities go, Ottawa compares favorably with others of its own size, but as a capital it falls short. The Government buildings are a fine collection of well-built edifices, admirably situated, but in the laying-out of the city no definite plan was followed and the result is a capital in name, but not in appearance.

An improvement committee has now taken the matter up and has framed a general plan for beautifying the city and giving it an outward dignity. What is proposed is to lay out a series of wide boulevards radiating from the Parliament Buildings, with a number of new parks and gardens, and public squares, beautified with trees and fountains. The plan has not been as yet detailed, but in general the improvements will be patterned after those recently made in Washington, the American capital, where a magnificent series of radiating boulevards has been stretched to the city's limits. An expenditure of a million dollars will be involved, covering probably fifteen years. The plan will be carried out gradually, but with always one object in view—the harmonized beautifying of the Capital. The proposal is one which public-spirited Canadians will heartily endorse.