

family there is no local opening, except in the purchase, at a high price, of a neighboring farm. But the Iowa or Dakota farmer, blessed with sons and looking prudently into the future, reflects that with the money derived from the sale of his farm he can buy enough virgin prairie to settle his family in life, and have enough capital left to build and to buy stock with. Most of these American immigrants seem to have from \$10,000 to \$15,000, and some much more.

The most curious thing about this immigration is the method by which it is worked. Nearly all of it is controlled and moved by capitalists, who have founded land companies for purposes of profit. These companies buy immense blocks of land wherever they can secure it of good quality, and within easy reach of railroads.

They acquire their land at, say, \$5 an acre, and either directly or through sub-companies bring in their settlers in wholesale fashion from south of the line. These last buy it at, say, double the price paid by the company, but settling in communities, by the very force of their numbers, they make the land at once worth that much, or more. In all of these tracts of land, however, every alternate section (640 acres) is the property of the Government, and can be acquired only on the homestead conditions. Many of these settlers take up the alternate section. The retention of this involves, at the end of three years' probation, an oath of allegiance to the British Crown, and there does not seem to be the least reluctance on the part of the Americans to assume this role of British subject.

I will now indicate roughly the districts of the Northwest to which these American immigrants are chiefly proceeding. Manitoba has attracted a smaller number than the other provinces. Saskatchewan is being largely patronized. All along the line, running from the American border to Moosejaw, near Regina, the capital, the new-comers are settling thickly. Alberta, however, seems, upon the whole, the favorite territory for settlement. In this province ranching, great and small, is the main industry, and grain a supplement. Edmonton, on a branch road 200 miles north of Calgary, is a popular centre, with its grain-growing facilities. Again, south of Calgary, in the direction of Fort McLeod, there has been considerable American investment. Several thousand Mormons, too, are to be found near the border.

It is clear that these citizens are lost to the United States as