THE EXODUS.

FRANCIS W. GREY, LITT. D., AUTHOR OF "The Cure of St. Philippe," "Gilbert Franklin

CHAPTER V. THE SASKATCHEWAN LAND AND IMPROVE-

MENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

Alphonse Bilodeau had been suflic-iently impressed by Pierre Martin's speech at Saint Joseph de l'Acadie, to deem it worth while to keep himself informed, casually, as it were, as to the latter's movements. His talk with Monseigneur Demers, moreover, had made clearer than ever the part which the clergy must necessarily take in any such movement as had been referred to, and had further shown him that his old friend was one with whom, in regard to this particular matter, it would be well that

hat he should keep in touch. He accordingly found occasion to write to Monseigneur Demers on some indifferent subject, and, in the course of his letter, enquired, as by an indifferent after thought, as to what had become of our young orator." The reply to the effect that Pierre Martin had gone to Middlehampton was by no means dis-pleasing to him, in fact, it may be said that he was very well satisfied with the way things were turning out. "He is just the man we want," he reflected ; he will leaven the lump of his exiled com-patriots more effectually than any one I know of."

people life w ow of." The compliment, could Pierre have of right. His personal ambition was in fact, founded largely though by been aware of it, was no slight one, com-ing whence it did, though Monseigneur no means exclusively on his conviction that he and he only could bring the Demers, better acquainted with the payer of it, might, possibly, have had his doubts whether after all it was very flattering to the lad's intelligence, whattask he foresaw to a really successfu ssue. That power should rest, ultimately, on wealth, should entail rather the ever it might be to his sincerity and en-Bilodeau, to say truth, set thusiasm. very little store in the present inacquirement of riches, was in his estimate of political conditions in Canada in-evitable. He had no illusions. Money stance, by the first of the qualities named, which he felt, indeed, he was fully capable of supplying to any extent was the one test of a man's success, money and the power that money gives. that might be required. Sincerity and enthusiasm were, however, as he would readily have acknowledged, less in his line, they belowed And the way to wealth, in this instance as in so many others he had known, lay line, they belonged to a youth and ig-norance of men and things from which in land speculation. The Exodus, to be in any real sense a success, must involve the repatriation of at least one hundred norance of men and things from which he had long since parted company with-out conscious regret. They were, he would have told you, each and all of them hindrances to the man who desired thousand families to begin with, say half a million of souls, possibly more. For such a colony sixteen to twenty millions of acres would be needed. It was of the to "do things," whether in business on in politics. But they were, the two qualities especially, valuable assets, nevertheless, in the case of such an very essence of his scheme for a New Quebec that the exiles should not be agent as he hoped Pierre Martin would area. An outcry would, he knew, be prove to be.

Since his visit to Saint Joseph de l'Acadie the idea of a great movement of repatriation, long entertained, had taken distinct shape, and had become for him a paramount issue. The time, for him a paramount local he considered, was ripe for determining, once for all, the place which his people once to hold or to miss holding in the were to hold, or to miss holding in the growth and development of the great Northwest. And on the answer to that question depended, he was contain the the part his people were to play in the formation and in the upbuilding of Candepended, he was convinced adian nationhood. But it must be now or never. The French settlement in Manitoba had been un coup mangué to quote his friend, the member for South Winnipeg, a verdict with which he was entirely in accord. There must be no second failure, if only that, in this case, second failure, if only that, in this case, there could be no possibility of retriev-ing it. Unless there was to be a com-plete success, it would be better to leave things as they were. A second coup manqué would render the position

Whereupon, having faced the possibil-ity and the inevitable consequences of failure, he set himself anistly and the have decided that the repatriated exiles were in no case to pay any money for their land. His profit, in short, was to be political first and chiefly, and only liberately to ensure by every means at his disposal, the success of a movement, of the vastness and difficulties of which incidentally pecuniary. The realization of his utopia, the foundation and growth he was perfectly aware. Pierre Martin, he had already decided, Pierre Martin's of his New Quebec came before all else. The rest, would, he was convinced, fall into its due place. enthusiasm, that is to say, was to be "as leaven hid in three measures of meal It was to this effect that he discussed whole was leavened"-the with the member for South Winnipeg, phrase heard at Mass, and opportunely recalled struck him as felicitous. The M. Zephirin St. Jacques, his plans for formation of the neut Onurch, in the persons of Monseigneur Demers, and of others, was to be en-listed on his side. That is how he ex-pressed it—to himself. Publicly, of course, and to those he wished to enlist, Church, in the Land and Improvement Co gentleman, less farsighted than his veteran acquaintance, was inclined at first to be sceptical as to its practica-He did not see, that is, where bility. he would say "the right thing," would lay stress on all the motives, religious, patriotic, philanthropic, to which they the profits came in, and said so. " But the profits, Monsieur le Sena teur, he protested, "your scheme is magnificent, yes, but a little utopian, n'est-ce-pas?" This very deferentially and the Church-would most readily respond, a task for which he was preeminently well fitted, and he knew it. There remained certain other forces which must, necessarily, be made use of. Money, as was natural, came first, as that on which all else must depend; pol-

it was simple enough, as he saw it.

States.

the time came

exiles must, as he had said at Saint Jos-

eph de l'Acadie, be made to leave the

thought, complacently. Pierre's en-thusiasm would, doubtless, accomplish

all that could be expected of a force on

which he, at least, was too wise to set

any limits. But it was on the vagaries aforesaid that the Senator counted most.

Labor, he was wont to say, was as 'un-

It was magnificiently simple, he

"I think

singularly apt.

Monsieur le Senateur, it marches

CHAPTER VI.

THE YOKE OF BONDAGE.

place in the factory where he worked

himself. The pay was small, of course, since Pierre was wholly without experi-

omy ' in school matters. A large French vote might complicate matters." Jean Baptiste who was to benefit by re-patriation, it was only fair that Jean Baptiste—or his friends in Canada— "Not if they were scattered, as the Government would scatter them," was Baptiste—or his friends in Canada— should pay for it. "C'est toujours Jean Baptiste qui paie," he mused, cynically. And Jean Baptiste should pay him—in many ways. But, if he was out of polithe answer. par Dieu !" the Senator

added, solemnly, almost fiercely," they shall not! We will make it imposmany ways. Dut, if he was out of poli-tics, he knew those who were in. All that was needed was that they should see, as clearly as he did, "what there was to it," as the familiar phrase goes. ible "We will," returned the member for

South Winnipeg, with equal earnestness. Thereupon the two men set them-selves to discuss the ways and means Labor, jealousies, money, politics not forgetting enthusiasm, personal and nal and whereby their plan for a new Quebec might be brought to a successful issue The tract of land to be acquired must racial; what more was there to be pro-vided for ? Only his personal advant-age; the payment he intended to exact they agreed, be of not less an extent than twenty to thirty million acres, and from his beneficiary, Jean Baptiste. Power, he was determined to regain; must moreover, be as near the line of the Transcontinental Railway as pos-sible. "For, see you," the Senator re-marked, "such a settlement means, inthe of the ower House; to be, at last, as he had hoped to be many years ago, the arbiter of the nation's destinies; of the fate of evitably, railway extension, and if we own all the best land, the railway must parties ; of the future of his race. Nor, o say truth was this mere mean am pay us any price we choose to ask for it. Do you begin to see your profits now, He realized all the higher, nobler possibil-ities of such a position, and intended le Deputé ?' he asked laughingly. honestly enough to use them to the best of his ability; if for his own ends But certainly. Monsieur le Sena-

"But certainly, industrial to be the teur," answered St. Jacques, readily. "Then you keep posse-sion of the land?" he enquired, after a pause. "For the first five years, yes," returned Bilodeau. "Our exiles will have it first, yet no less for the good of those on

must necessarily depend. His very cynicism of plainness was the best guarantee that he would not be fool enough—so heputit to himself—to openrent free for that period. Then, they will pay us two, five dollars an acre, ly or even grossly misuse his opportuni-ties. He was, in a word, sincerely ambitious on behalf of his race. extending over a further term of ten years. It will be worth that to them to be in their own land in a new Quebcc. sincerely anxious to ensure for his people the place in the nation's We shall have the railway in a year of le the place in the nation's which he believed was theirs two at most. Then, with a dozen votes n the Commons and as many in Provincial House, a change in the Autmony act in reference to Crown Lands is always possible.

ence, but he was thankful to get work so soon and so easily. According to Jean, indeed, he was lucky beyond what the elder brother had dared to hope, though "And in that case ?" The mem ber for South Winnipeg was be-ginning to see the practical possi-bility of the plan outlined, practical, that he had spoken confidently enough. Already, he now confessed, there were rumors of a possible strike, if not of a lock out to available strike in the strike of a lock out the second strike strike in the second strike strike strike in the second strike str is, in his sense of the word. He was hoping, also, that his friend had not seen how dense he had been in regard to it.

"In that case," was the reply, " we shall apply for a further 'grant' of several million acres, if indeed, we don't several million acres, if indeed, we don't get them sooner, in exchange for the land given to the railway. Oh, there are always ways, Monsieur le Député;" the Senator concluded, airily, nor was his hearer by any means disposed to doubt him any further.

Certain names were accordingly mentioned, as of those likely to see the possibilities of the Saskatchewan Land possibilities of the Sassatchewin Land and Improvement Company in much the same light as viewed by its originators. The profits, political and pecuniary, were 'found money' as a certain West scattered, but should settle on a definite aised against colonization, as contrary to the Government's immigration policy. There could be but one answer possible—the offer of the necessary land. ern capitalist was pleased to say, when asked to take part in it, it had the further advantage of appealing to 'national' in-stincts, whether of desire to retain a gravely imperilled place in the destinie of the Dominion or of a not e Curé of Pontaux Marais, which of the Dominion, or of a not unnatural anxiety to get the better of 'fellowpointed to this very possibility of land speculation seemed, therefore, in a fair way to be realized. Yet, could he have citizens, not distinguished by thei seen a little deeper into Senator Bilo deau's mind—either before or after the consideration of French Canadian sensibilities. realization of that which he had dreaded

Thereafter, the question of the Exo dus itself remained to be considered ; its inception, progress and final accom-plishment, with the means necessary to each stage. Of Pierre Martin's ability and enthusiasm Bilodeau spoke in the highest terms. "We are always enthus principally directed went on with their work with that quiet, almost fatalistic he said, hal iastic, we Canadians," mockingly, " and if he can get even a few of them roused, the infection is sur to spread. But labor and race jeal-busies," he added, with an alteration tural unwonted plainness, very flattering to his hearer, "are what we must children all count on. There must be a strike in all for it. But it was one of the complex-ities of his somewhat misunderstood the New England factories, and an out-cry against cheap foreign labor. If a little religious bigotry against ' French Papists' tant mieux; it will all serve our purpose. Then, when our people are helpless, we come forward in Parliament, and ask for help to repatriate them. A Government." he concluded, spends millions on bringing in European mmigrants, cannot, dare not refu do as much for exiled Canadians, waiting

do as much for exiled Canadiana, to return to their own country." "They certainly will not," said St. "They certainly will not," he with conviction. "And," he Jacques with conviction. "An went on, "as we shall have the thanks to you, Monsieur le Senateur, they cannot prevent our 'colonizing' the repatriated exiles.

from the former ones, even as the guest to be differed from those who had remore, that there are no politics where profits are in question. Every conceiv-able motive, in fact, was appealed to, selfish or otherwise, with conspicuous success. In the last hours of a prolonged nded reluctantly, perfunctorily or not at all. it came about that in those

So hour first few weeks when every session a Bill was passed, granting to the Saskatchewan Land and Improveseemed a day and every day seemed endless, when the long succession of just such hours and days stretched out be-fore like a dull eternity, the burthen of which was howend his strength and his ment Company, thirty million acres of pontiguous prairie land in Saskatch ewan and Alberta, for future settlement which was beyond his strength and his brave heart almost failed him, Pierre The Company, it was agreed, was to pay one dollar an acre, the payment to be said as much one evening to his friend completed within ten years. It was further agreed that, should land ever the priest. And Father Gagnon reading what was in the lad's mind, rather further agreed that, should land ever be required for a railway within the limits of the grant, five acres within, or adjacent to it, were to be given by the Government for every acre yielded by than answering what he was trying to say supplied him with a piece of practi-cal philosophy, old doubtless as humanity itself, but new just then to his Company. (think that will suit us," said earer.

"How long have you to live?" he ask-

Senator Bilodeau complacently to the member of South Winnipeg, when the bill has received the Governor's assent. "I think so, too," was the answer, equally complacent. "It marches, "How long have you to hee, he had ed quietly. Pierre looked up, he had been sitting with his head bent, the picture of des-pondency. "I don't know Monsieur le Curé," he answered simply, somewhat surprised it may be at the unexpected cureting. "It certainly does," rejoined that entleman. "And that other matter, question. "Till to-morroa?" Father Gagnon's

gentleman. "And that other matter, Monsieur le Deputé," he added, quietly "our labour friend eh?" tone was as quiet and matter of fact as ever, and Pierre still more stonished as doubtless the priest intended that he "Oh, that marches, too, comme à Quebec," answered St. Jacques cheer-fully. And the old simile seemed, to both of them, for some cryptic reason, simulated and should be answered just as simply as before: "I don't know, Monsieur le before: "Then don't worry about next week," was the rejoinder; "you may never see

it. Ask for your daily bread mon cher, and leave to morrow and next week to le Bon Dieu. He will look after them Jean Martin was as good as his word. He found, for Pierre, within a week of the latter's arrival in Middlehampton, "Yes, Monsieur le Curé." Just the

words but from Pierre's way of three saying them, Father Gagnon judged that the lesson was in a fair way to being learned. As indeed it was, Pierre having already mastered many preliminry ones, as they may be called; yet either those nor this latest in a day. ary But the philosophy, as in harmony with

that of his race was helpful. In truth, he had need of all the help he could derive from it. To a country lock-out ; to say nothing of growing mur nurs from patriotic Americans against lad, a nature lover-which are not al-"cheap for reign labor. What they might result in no one could tell; the vagaries ways synonymous-keenly alive to the influences and delights that the Great Mother keeps for her favorites, even the college at Saint Joseph de l'Acadie of delegates and societies being, as Alphonse Bilodeau phrased it, as unac-countable as those of women. The rehad seemed in some sense a confine-ment. There, however, he had had his mark, if unflattering to the sex — for whom the Senator had no love and less atudies and his hopes for compensation respect-was characteristic, and implied here in the noisy factory he had only one—the sense of a duty to be done. an unaccountability simply beyond the comprehension of ordinary mortals. Which is much-all perhaps-that a man may dare to ask for, but, if wholesome The rumors as well as the murmurs might, however, had any one thought of ewhat Spartan to be honest. doing so, have been traced to certain very definite sources, practically, in fact, to one individual who was not, at the he had always his homegoing to look forward to; the long summer of farm abour, of glorious sunrises, and sunsets, moment, seeking notoriety, whatever might be the case later on. Briefly when the member for South Winnipeg, of full rich glory of of brief storms, of brief storms, of full rich glory of existence. Here he was but one of a crowd, a part of a machine, that knew no weariness, it knew no joy and had no heart, no color, in answer to Senator Bilodeau's query anent 'our labor friend,' answered unno variety. And Pierre saw, a in a vision, men, women even childre esitatingly that things were progress as ing favorably, he spoke of what he knew. A hint, suitably conveyed, to the retiring of his race, drawn yearly from the calm havens of their fields and villages into the whirling vortex of industrialism, into the noise and turnult of machinery, gentleman referred to, was amply sufficient. Rumors and murmurs duly buzed as persistently as those of a swarn of bees. Wherein, to follow out the simile, the modest individual aforesaid the narrow lanes and streets of sordic cities; saw, in a word, the tragedy of may be looked on as playing the part of queen bee. And, meanwhile, those his people wherein he too, and those he loved best were involved. And the against whom rumors and murmurs were cross weighed him down as well, the cross, not of his own sorrow but of his

people's; the darkness closed about him, is it was closing about them. Was indifference which distinguishes the French Canadian habitant; may be said, there no light, no hope, no escape." So, though he made the best of it, as ndeed, to be a trait common to agricul tural laborers everywhere, due pre-sumably to lack of imagination, perwas his way, and tried honestly to forget his own sorrow in sorrow for his people, there were times when philos-ophy and compensation both failed him haps, also, to the practical lessons learned from daily contact with unhurrying, unworrying beasts and birds doubt, they failed Father Gagnon' self, which was no reason why he should distrust the philosophy, at least, or the Pierre, with the best will in the world, with all his wish to have the carpencompensation. It was himself, rather, ter's shop at Nazareth always in mind found his new lot a hard one, at best of whom he must be diffident, as again it was a heavy yoke which he would have to carry ; better, he thought, with was Father Gagnon's case, that, indeed, of all of us. Perhaps Father Gagnon have to carry; better, he thought, with a touch of his racial philosophy, to fit it to his neck with as little delay as might of all of us. wished to see how the old philosophy would work in a new life and under conbe, and console himself with the reflex ion that to be without work would be ditions as in a temperament differing rom his own Be that as it may, there was one occa

heavier burthen still. Followed days, weeks and months of sion in the first spring Pierre spent in drudgery such as he had not deemed possible of endurance, of physical and spiritual weariness, physical and spirit-Middlehampton. Such a spring ! When his new-found philosophy, the compensaa dav's di nal nausea at sights, sounds and proximwhen he, ity with animals lower and more intoler-able than the very brutes. But, though the yoke galled him sorely, and the iron entered into his soul, he contrived to ndure 'patiently' at least, if not 'cheerfully ' according to the counsel of his good friend Thomas à Kempis. And, for some measure of his patience, more perhaps than he realized he was indebted to a new friend and counsellor, the priest of Middlehampton, the Abbé Gagnon, whom he had duly gone to see, as his own Curé had bidden him do. And Abbé Gagnon, won to him at first sight, knowing something of history and guessing more, knowing too, that the life of the factories must be for such a nature, a veritable hell on earth, en-couraged him to come of an evening and 'talk things over' as the priest expresse

growing manhood, probably did him good, growing manhood, probably did him good. Father Gagnon's philosophy, though sound and helpful, was not all he needed. So, while he kept the good priest's "one day's life" clear in view, he set himself to study earnestly and carefully the con-ditions under which his daily life was to be used by the sound on the indeed book

be spent. He would not, indeed, look beyond the momentary present, not even the morrow still less to any possibility beyond the present actuality. The duty beyond the presentation and demanded his im-mediate attention, but he might, at least, study the circumstances and surroundings in which he was called upon to fulfil the task allotted to him.

These, then, were the conditions, as he had come to know them, after some nine months spent in Middlehampton. They may be given, briefly here, since they had much to do with his life's work, not, indeed, as he saw it then, but as he was to see it, in due course, when the horizon dark and narrow now, should have grown wider, clearer, full of hope and promise.

Messrs. Mills and Hammond, in whose factory he worked, were the oldest and most respected firm in Middlehampton, one might almost say, in all New England. Strictly, the firm consisted of England. Strictly, the firm consisted of John Hanmond, senior, only, for the present at all events, his friend and partner, Robert Mills, having died some years previously. The son, Robert, junior, was to be taken into partnership when the man the father trusted as him-self, should think it to the interest of the business to do so. Meanwhile the ycung man was assistant manager, under a trusted servant of the firm, old Peter Meadowgate; John Hammond's own som commonly known as Johnny, being a clerk in his father's office. This ensured that the methods which for over a century had brought success and credit to the firm, would in all probability, be con-tinued for as long a period.

Just now, however, though of this Pierre was only becoming vaguely award -the fact was no secret to the member for South Winnipeg, seeing he had done his best to bring it about- the firm was between the upper millstone of a Cotton Trust and the nether one of the Labor Union, with the financial stringency, due to a panic, to complicate the situ tion. Fortunately for all concerned, its own workmen were outwardly loyalfar. Murmurs and ramors there had doubtless been and still were, bu overt action yet. John Hammond's brief address to a delegation, shortly before Pierre Martin's arrival in Middlehampton had probably more than a little ontributed to this temporary truce. See here," he had said, holding up a letter received some days previously and so far unanswered; "this is an offer from the New England Cotton Company -the Trust. It's a fair price but I'm in no mind to take it, unless you make it impossible for me to say no. If you get this increase you're asking for we can't fight them. If I sell out to them you know what will happen." The de-legation did know. Your big boss, the mill owner continued, says there shall be no reduction of wages. Well, he may be able to beat the law of supply nd demand, but I guess he won't the Cotton Company. Anyway I can't -unless you help me.

Once more the delegation, for the time being at all events, were of the speak-er's way of thinking and said so through their leader. Mills and Hammond could not of course 'whip' the union. That they knew and derived presumably, such satisfaction from the know-ledge as it was calculated to afford. But the Cotton Company could as they were constrained to admit, would ; had already done so. They conveyed as diplomatically but decidedly to much the union managers. These gentlemen mindful of their late defeat at the hands of the Cotton Company wisely came to the conclusion not 'order cut' the employees of Messrs. Mills and Hammond for the present. The decision was duly announced as by one high contracting party to another both to John Hammond, and, less formally, to the member for South Winnipeg. latter it may be supposed expressed an acquiescence which under the circum-stances was more or less a matter of course. As for John Hammond, what his men might or might not do, at some future period did not greatly him. He could always, he knew, sell out to the Trust for whom his business would have a steadily increasing value, and let them wrestle with the union. Which if cynical was 'strictly business' and in his opinion, practically inevit-able, things being as they were. It would be a grand fight he thought. If the men got the worst of it as he be-lieved they must, his men among the number, they would have only them-selves to thank. All this, however, did not, definitely come at the moment within the scope of Pierre Martin's study of the conditions wherein he found himself, though he was conscious of it as a factor which might, ultimately, materially affect the situation, might indeed, prove the motive force which should set his people on their way back to their own land. Wherein, it will be seen, he was once more all unconscious of Alphonse Biledeau's way of thinking. His immediate attention was, therefore, more especially directed to the lives and conditions of his fellow workmen, of his own race, and of their wives and children. His brother and sisterin-law, he took as one case among many, differing he felt sure in no material deree from that of others, unless it were in their simple faith, their sobriety, industry and honesty all the good old-fashioned, typical virtues of the French Canadian habitant. But, young as he was, he understood after a brief resid-ues, the store surroundings, that ence in these new surroundings, that they were, as he had always believed, distinctly unfavorable, if not wholly inimical to these very qualities. One forcibly-the point struck him very small families of the French Canadians. Even Jean and Marie had only four children. One day, he spoke to Jean about it. "But, mon cher," said his brother, shrugging his shoulders, "what would you? we are not on a farm here. Chilyou? we are not on a farm here. Child dren in a city are a burthen, on a farm they are wealth." Pierre quoted certain ancient words anent "a heritage and a gift" familiar ta herit of them to both of them.

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to enter, once more, the arena

oition, no sordid self seeking only.



and with possibly some misgivings as to whether he was showing himself less perspicacious than he wished the other to think him, which, as a matter of fact. was precisely what he was doing. itics, in due course; also, the vagaries-he could think of no better word-of in Alphonse Bilodeau, however, was not one to let others know his real estimate of them unless, indeed, it suited his dustrialism and race discords. Com-plicated as all this might have seemed purpose to do so. In this case, it did not. He answered, therefore, suavely to Monseigneur Demers, for example it was simple enough, as he saw it. The

The unformulated fears of Monsieu

-he might have found cause for hoping

that the fears in question had, perhaps

been less well founded than he thought

It was Senator Bilodeau's intention, in-

any rumor of a possible exodus should

go abroad, and in that sense at least, to

ambition was as much racial as personal

o, he was determined. Jean Bantiste

hould profit by this land deal to the

fullest extent of the price he was to pay

character that he should, nevertheless

Saskatchewan

speculate in it. But just as his political

eed, to secure the land needed before

and graciously. "Utopian, mon cher St. Jacques ?" he returned with his customary expres sive gesture, " but yes, if you will. Ye see you, will the Government grant all that land en bloc? That is the main "I see," tho

"I see," thoughtfully. "The prov-incial government would," he suggested,

almost apologetically. "Possibly," was the reply, "but un-fortunately for our purpose the provin-cial government parted with its birthaccountable' as a woman, and just as liable to fits of unreasoning jealousy. Labor, therefore, plus race hatred, could right for-how do you say it ?--a mess of pottage. They have no control over their crown lands. The Federal Govbe trusted, if properly managed to make the exiles only too glad to return to their own land. Either would of itself ernment kept that, wisely-from their be sufficient for his purpose; combined as he intended that they should be, they would be irresistible. There point of view. Ultimately? Well, we shall see. In the meantime, the Federal Government is not disposed to grant us any favors. There is always would be no difficulty, he assured himself, in getting the movement started, when grant us any navors. There is always 'the immigration policy of the Depart-ment' behind which they can shelter themselves. And the Department does not love us Canadians," he added. "We are more apt to think for ourselves than Calleien Double here to use were by

" don't

But once started, money and politics would become the necessary forces they must always be in all great undertak-ings. Of the two, the latter was by far Galicians, Doukhobors, tous ces gens là the more important, since it can always command the former. Such, at least, had always been Alphonse Bilodeau's ex-And our people," he concluded, love the ' little red school house.' They perionce—a long and varied one. He, personally, was professedly out of poli-tics, and, consequently, not in a position

tics, and, consequently, not in a position to obtain the funds required to initiate the movement. Once begun, there would be no difficulty in obtaining Government assistance, since it was

Bilodeau smiled contentedly. don't think they can," he said, smoking leisurely. His dreams were coming true at last. In a few years, at latest, he should take the place in Federal affairs to which his abilities, as he befully lieved, unquestionably entitled him Nor would it be long, he mused further watching the smoke from his cigar as floated lazily upward, before those wh had ignored his past services would b suing for his support and assistance. It was New Quebec that should average

him on his enemies. "As to this strike, now," observed the member for South Winnipeg, after a pause, "I think I know the man we want pause, "I think I know the man we wan". Is it necessary to name him ?" he asked, having, even in this brief space, uncon-sciously learned some of the old man's reticence and caution."

"Not in the least," was the rejoinder, " Provided he does what we want. We shall not have to pay him, I presume," he added, reverting for a moment to the frankness which the other foil to be frankness which the other felt to be se

flattering. " Pas du tout," answered St. Jacques "Pas du tout," answered St. Jacques, confidently; "he will pay himself, I assure you, and will not know, if I can help it, that he is working for anybody —except himself. In the interests of

except himself. In the interests of American lab r, you understand." "Perfectly, and we," cynically, "in the interests of our race, eh?" But St. Jacques felt that, under the veneer of cynicism there was a real love for their an ambition that was no less people acial than personal.

Of the Saskatchewan Land and Im provement Company it may be said here, that it was formed, not long after-

wards and under flourish of trumpets It was not Senator Bilodeau's way to attract public attention to his plans and

love the 'little red school house.' They want the nuns, the brothers and the Curé. May be they have reason." "May be," rejoined St. Jacques in-differently. "Anyway, that is what they want, and the new provinces are not keen to grant it. They paid too big a price, see you, for their 'auton-

For,"Abbé Gagnon, as has been said, knew all about the factories, or as muc as was possible to anyone not actually employed in them, and the knowledge, chanted gaily, carelessly :

employed in them, and the knowledge, so far as it affected his own people, weighed on him like a soul-burthen, a cross that crushed him to the earth, a darkness that might be felt. To him, the exile of his people in this land of Egypt, was the veritable tragedy of a race, buncless irromodiable save by race, hopeless irremediable save by a miracle. His only comfort was that he could share the exile, and take his part in the tragedy, lightening both by means not measurable by human intelli

means not measurable by human mean including gence; his only hope that God might even yet send a deliverer. Nor was it long before the hope, dim hitherto took clearer form, and his heart asked, as he helped at Diorne Martin's earnest face : looked at Pierre Martin's earnest face

was this indeed the chosen Moses of the desired Exodus?

Chain of thought, reason, there was none, that he was conscious of. It might be that the long years of waiting, the heartsickness of hope deferred, had made him fanciful. But he read at least

himself, failed him utterly. The wild longing for the woods and fields that is like the Highlander's longing for his hills and glens, which comes to the French Canadian with the first birds, the breaking up of ice - bound streams and rivers, the warm spring sunshine. Nature's resurrection assailed him even at the college. had How much more strongly it beset him by the waters of Babylon," no words can say. Saint Joseph de l'Acadie was country Saint Joseph de l'Acadie was country afterall, but Middlehampton ! Here were miles of streets and houses, narrow, mear and noisy, for wide fields and woods; the canopy of factory smoke for the blue skies of his own land, the evil odors of chemicals for the perfumes of trailing arbutus and new spring leaves and grass; the din of traffic, the harsh sounds of a foreign speech for the music of the birds and streams. So, when a fellow-workman, a French Canadian, passing his window, on a mild, spring evening

Que j'aime voir les hirondelles Sous ma fenetre, tous les ans, Venir m'apporter des nouvelles De l'arrivée du printemps;"

the homesick lad, who, in happier time had sung the words many a time, fairly broke down and burst into tears. Super flumina Babylonis. The son was, perhaps, hardly one of the songs of Sion, but it at least carried him back, as only such songs can, to the old days,

when, in the home he loved, the swallows had brought him, year by year the tidings of the coming of spring Had the singer, he wondered, forgotten his exile; grown indifferent to it? That, he thought, would be worse than all else; that his people should forget their own land, and be content to remain by

the waters of Babylon. Surely, he said to himself, they would not be allowed to do so, would even, should it prove needful, be driven back to the Land of Promise. And, meanwhile, though he, of course, was wholly unaware of it, the causes that should lead to this very end

were already preparing. The tears, therefore, though he was inclined to be ashamed of them as unbecoming his doublet and hose, his