

the descendants of the governors under the French régime and also of the English Governors, together with later governors-general still living, may be invited to Canada on the occasion. A Reunion of the descendants of the U. E. Loyalists and the "Sons and Daughters of the Revolution" may be also arranged, to join along with the representatives of France and the Empire, in celebrating the century of progress which has followed upon a century of conflict. Possibly there may be formed a commemorative pilgrimage, participated in by warships of various nations, following the route of Cartier and Champlain from Cape Breton to Montreal. The track of the discoverers may thence be followed by steamer and rail up the valley of the Ottawa towards the great lakes; the guests arriving in Toronto in time to open the International Historical Exhibition during the month of July, 1897.

It is not too soon to prepare for such an important celebration. The Canadian Institute has already taken action by appointing a preliminary committee and by taking other steps, among which I may mention that an invitation has been extended to the British Association to hold its meeting in Toronto, in 1897. This meeting will undoubtedly add interest and lustre to the proceedings of the year.

The Committee appointed by the Canadian Institute has already secured the active co-operation of the Royal Society of Canada, the Historical Societies of Ontario and Quebec, the Universities of Toronto, Trinity, and Victoria at Toronto, Queen's University, Kingston, and Laval University, Quebec, and the Seminary of Montreal.

It hopes to have represented in a general national committee of correspondence and co-operation all the Universities, Colleges, Societies, and Institutions of an historical, learned or public character in the Dominion, and to thus form a broad, national organization, of which it is proposed to ask His Excellency, the Governor-General, to accept the Honourary-Presidency.

On behalf of the Committee,

O. A. HOWLAND,

Provisional Chairman.

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### Colonial Clubs.

THE Colonial Clubs of Massachusetts, to which we referred in our last paper, are worthy of something more than a passing notice.

The interior migration of the United States has received but little public attention, yet it is estimated that two per cent. of the population from the Seaboard States move westward every year. The American migrant, like his fellow-sufferers in Europe, has hitherto been left to the mercy of Land Companies, Railway Companies, and agents of all sorts, whose one and only object is to sell their lands and secure future customers. As Dr. Everett Hale, writing in the *Boston Commonwealth*, says: "George Holyoake spoke with the greatest earnestness on the subject when he was in this country. He said that every village in England was flooded with advertisements of rival railways, offering their lands to English emigrants, but there was no official statement of any sort to which people could be referred, by which they could judge how far the statements in these blatant advertisements were true. He said that the emigrant from England arrived at the pier in America absolutely ignorant of the country to which he came, and there was nobody in America who cared to give him disinterested information. So far as the personal conduct of emigrants from the East to the West goes, the arrangements of the Mormon Church are the only organized arrangements. You can see, on a steamer wharf sometimes, the agent of the Mormons, waiting for a party which is coming from England; he is going to take them to Utah. But if a person is so unfortunate that he is only a Christian, and not a member of the Church of the Latter Day Saints, he must just fight his way among a horde of leeches who want to get all his money before he is out of the sound of the waves of the sea."

The formation of the first Colonial Club in Boston marks a new epoch in the history of colonization. It is the first organized attempt to form a popular system for the conduct of colonization in the interests of the Colonist. It is not the intention to take up land, but the object of these Associations is to collect and distribute accurate information, to afford some such mutual

assistance as has been rendered by the Chatauqua and other reading circles, which have been so successful in the United States, to expose dishonest agents, and to overcome the evils of haphazard settlement, by drawing intending emigrants together, and, as far as possible, by organization, to make the rough path of the Colonist more smooth.

How the idea would be received in England it is hard to say. The American people are quick to take up anything new, and the more comprehensive a scheme is the more they like it. The members of the Colonial Clubs include clergymen, labour leaders, members of the press, and generally the class of men who are in touch with those people, who want to move from the congested centres to the more promising fields of a newer country. At present enthusiasm appears to run strong, and under an aggressive campaign, headed by the Chairman of the United States Irrigation Congress, the movement is rapidly spreading to other centres. English people, on the other hand, are slow to move, but the cry of their unemployed is louder, and the existence of forty-five societies and individuals engaged in the unprofitable work of assisting settlers to emigrate to Canada may be taken as evidence that there is a strong under current of interest capable of direction, and that the people of Great Britain are not less alive to the difficulties attending emigration than their cousins across the water.

If permanent success is once assured in the United States, it will afford an object lesson of international importance, for, by the convincing logic of results, we are forced to the conclusion that colonization by the Government, unaided by popular organization, is not a success, and that unassociated efforts by societies or individuals are generally doomed to failure.

To explain clearly the importance of the movement it may be necessary to point out some of the details of practical work which might be taken up by these Associations in Great Britain. We would suggest the following: (1) To provide a means for the poor to emigrate by the formation on Associations on the lines of the Building and Loan Co-operative Associations for the loaning of money for emigration to its members with a subsidiary or guarantee fund composed of charitable contributions to be applied to the cost of management and to guarantee the repayment of principle and interest on each share subscribed; (2) to appoint men of known experience and ability at Home and in each Colony to write in pamphlet form respecting the Colonies and the problems of colonization, both from the Home and Colonial point of view; to publish a journal as the established organ of the Colonial Clubs, and to distribute this literature among the members; (3) to organize settlers into parties or excursions, which should be personally conducted; (4) to prevent the perpetration of frauds upon settlers by the recommendation of reliable agents; (5) to hold periodical conferences for the discussion of the problems of colonization.

It will be admitted that all these objects are necessary to place the conduct of colonization on a business footing, and that to carry them out the organized assistance of the people is a necessary complement to the work of the Government.

The Government on their part could materially aid and encourage the operations of the Colonial Clubs, by the formation of Colonies on the lines we have advocated, thereby affording a safe objective point for their operations. If one such Colony were a success, the prestige would attach to others; history would repeat itself; and, with the systematic management of Associations in Great Britain to furnish funds to desirable settlers who need assistance, immigrants would pour in by ship-loads to this country.

Money, of course, will be needed for current expenses and the payment of permanent officials; but use might well be made of the agents of the Colonial Governments, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that if Colonial Clubs were formed in Great Britain, they would receive sufficient financial support from both the British and Colonial Governments and the railway and steamship companies who will be directly benefited, and that from the same sources encouragement will be given for a special line of literature for distribution.

Many, no doubt, will take shares, as an investment, for the benefit of a needy emigrant. The repayment of a loan to an emigrant might be guaranteed in some cases by the municipality to which he belongs. The selection of settlers would be wisely left to representatives of the guarantee funds.