

## SELECTING SETTLERS.

There is a prevailing belief in Great Britain that the colonies, and especially such colonies as the Canadian Northwest, are anxious to secure settlers from the Mother Country, no matter from what class these settlers are drawn. And an article headed as the above one is, will no doubt seem to the average resident of Great Britain, a most singular one in a Manitoba journal, a place where only feelings of gratitude should be expressed for any additions to population that might be secured. But past experience has shown that many of the settlers or intending settlers, who have arrived in this province during the past ten years, have contributed little to the progress or good of the country, and quite a large proportion of them would have fared better themselves besides contributing much more to the good of society around them, had they never left their native lands.

A report has recently been presented to the United States Secretary of the Treasury by Surgeon General Hamilton, who, looking at this subject through the eyes of a physician and surgeon, recommends, that emigrants before leaving Europe be compelled to procure from United States consuls there certificates to the effect that they have not been convicted of crime, that they have not been public charges, and that they are not suffering from contagious or chronic diseases or disabilities, likely to make them public charges, and that no immigrant be allowed to land in the United States, unless possessed of such a certificate. Such moral and sanitary safeguards, although enforced through different officials, are necessary in Canada also, and such discrimination should be carefully exercised. As yet Canada has not had a large influx of criminal population from Europe, for the reason that the United States, as easily reached as Canada, furnishes a far wider field for the operation of criminals, and it may safely be assumed that such people are not troubled with patriotic sentiments, as to the flag under which they pursue their questionable callings.

But there are classes in Europe and Great Britain in particular, not actually criminals, which are not wanted in Canada, namely, loose characters, who are ready for any life but one of industry. Regarding females of that class, a Canadian agent of the Government, at a prominent port, used to say, that the bulk of the female exports of British Christian philanthropy arrived in Canada after a month's training on gospel and soup, and in nine cases out of ten, it took them about a month to get back to the pad they had trodden for years, while the male exports in the same proportion formed in the land they were assisted to adopt, a class who will neither work nor starve.

General Booth, of the Salvation Army, that most energetic and successful of all modern evangelists, in his work entitled "Darkest England" proposes, among other details of his wonderful and admirable scheme for evangelizing the sunken masses of Great Britain, that a large share of those reclaimed should be formed into settlements in the colonies. We have no desire to detract from the value or practicability of the general's scheme, nor do

we question the ability of Divine power to christianize and elevate those sunken masses, but we do hope if the general's great scheme materializes, that there will be in connection with those sent to Canada, some test applied which will better gauge the genuineness of change of heart, actions and intentions, than has been applied in connection with former imports of such reformed settlers. The general should keep in mind that the man, who can only be a cowering, sneaking criminal in an old country where the organization for enforcing law and order is perfect, may become a defiant desperado in a new country where such organization is slender, weak, and scattered in its power.

But outside of the dangerous classes, the work of selecting immigrants becomes a work requiring some delicacy. A few years ago the "leading daily journal of the Northwest" asserted that no settlers were wanted here except those of the agricultural class, possessed of sufficient means to commence farming operations at once, whereas each year, and this year in particular, has shown that agricultural laborers are much more wanted than farmers. When such laborers had to be hired at \$15 a month and found, as they were this fall, it is beyond dispute that the supply was short of the demand: besides many who came to Manitoba, possessed of liberal means, only became shiftless loafers, none of them any use, unless the few who from time to time drift into the ranks of the mounted police force.

After fixing the moral and sanitary safeguards, there are in reality no other fixed rules that can be adhered to. Wealth may be an advantage, and in the hands of some a drawback. Poverty is no crime here, no matter what it may be elsewhere, if it is only associated with industry, and the latter qualification is after all the one most desirable in a settler. In this new country it is not found long in company with poverty. It is the foundation of worldly success here, and ingenuity will rear the superstructure.

## THE LATE WHEAT TUMBLE.

The reason for the late tumble in wheat, unlike many such tumbles, was comparatively easy to trace to its source, although that source was a little out of the ordinary track, and did not seem to have the slightest relation to the world's supply of and demand for that cereal, but was purely sympathetic, and consequent upon the financial cyclone, which struck New York, London and other great money centres. Coming as it did from an unusual source, and baffling, or rather tripping up the most conservative foresight, its effects were naturally more disastrous, than usual when it brought disaster, and more disappointing than usual where it brought only disappointment. Its effects and consequences in the outside grain world we shall not at present discuss, as they have been freely handled by almost every American journal of prominence in connection with commercial affairs, but shall confine ourselves to its action in the northwest.

Although to many it may seem that our farmers have been the heaviest sufferers by the late wheat drop, such is not the case, although

in a great many instances they were the least able to stand the loss it brought to them. Our local grain men were the greatest sufferers by far, as the drop came at a time in the season when they were least able to prepare for it. They had struggled through with the poor quality of receipts, which usually come in with the opening of a grain season here, and which were this year poorer in quality, and worse damaged than in almost any previous year. They had just got well started into receipts of a much better average of grain receipts, coming from that class of farmers, who take proper care in stacking and other details, and who seldom market grain before November opens. Scarcely a dealer of their number but had commenced to load up a little, not with a speculative load, but with the load which every grain man in this country finds it necessary to carry to a greater or less extent during the greater part of the winter. In this condition drop after drop struck them like a succession of volcanic shocks, until before the close of the week before last, the last spark of hope and courage had oozed out of them.

While grain men were in the state above described, it could not be expected that the farmer would be faring well at their hands. At the close of the week before last it was almost impossible to get a bid of any kind from either an Eastern Canadian or a British buyer, and it must be remembered, that there can be no doubt now, with the McKinley bill in operation, that the United States is to our people a closed market, if indeed it has not always been such. Quotations received from the east, low as they were, were purely nominal, and nobody wanted any wheat, until the storm in financial affairs subsided, and it could be clearly seen where the purchasing power was to come from. To the farmer, who had no such outside trouble to contend with, the actions of such men or their agents on a local market might very naturally look incomprehensible at times, and no doubt tantalizing. But such was the position of the grain buyers during the week before last, and that his buying should have given dissatisfaction to many farmers is only what might be expected.

It is amusing to read the grumbling in the country press about wheat prices since the late drop set in. One farmer correspondent of a country journal, after abusing the buyers of his local market, suggests, that if they would chew less in samples from his load, and pay better prices, farmers would get more justice. Numbers of other such correspondents endeavor to show how the buyers of one town pay five, ten and even fifteen cents a bushel higher than those of another, all of which is clear to the grumbler, but to no one else, unless it be that there was ten days of a lapse between the dates of quotations. Country journalists too join in the growl, although they are in a better position as a rule to understand the real state of affairs than are farmers, and one exchange waggishly suggests the advisability of getting Messrs. Crossley and Hunter, the renowned evangelists, who are now in the province, to try their christianizing efforts upon the poor grain buyers.

It is well that financial matters are getting rapidly down to a safer, though a depressed