

Homes in Canada.

In Dakota the extent and importance of the migration of settlers to Canada is evidently being recognized. The journals of Aberdeen, S. D., are now having a lively discussion on the subject. One of them, the *News*, blames a contemporary for being too friendly to the movement, and in order to belittle it, describes the farmers who are leaving as being "played out," "dead-beats," etc. The *Star* retorts that if this description were correct it would evidently deserve thanks, and declares that as long as fresh victims could be lured in it mattered little, but now the case is different, for when a settler is sold out and leaves "his place is vacant and he is missed." It further says:—"A recent issue of the *Weekly News* contains notices of fourteen mortgage foreclosures. The amount in average default on these mortgages is less than twenty dollars, and in one case only nine. Think of a man losing his home for the lack of nine dollars! The cost of foreclosure is from \$125 to \$150 each. If a man cannot meet his interest payments, how can he hope to pay these exorbitant attorney fees and redeem his home? He cannot and he does not."

Evidently when a farmer is reduced to such a state of penury he has adopted an unsuitable location, and it is equally plain that the "institutions" of the country have increased, instead of lightening his burden. As the *Star* says in continuation:—

"The eviction of families from homes they have spent years in making for the lack of \$20 each gives South Dakota a blacker eye and tells of deeper misery than all the tales of drought and blizzards that have ever been printed; and who can wonder that the stories of a paradise in the north, where the mortgage shark is unknown, comes to poor farmers less devils like a vision of hope in the midst of despair?"

This vision of hope is known to be no delusion. Those who have already made the change have experienced the benefit and have communicated the happy intelligence to their neighbors, so that the migration into the Canadian Northwest is growing apace. Fortunately, too, the movement is not confined to the unfortunates thus described, for many are being wise enough to remove before they are thus stripped.

Poor crops, exorbitant interest, and heavy law expenses are not the only drawbacks that cause our neighbors to envy Canadian settlers. Another Dakota journal has a boastful statement as to the profit made by a dealer on the shipment of a car of wheat to Duluth, and says:—

"McCormick states he cleared just \$115 on the car over home price." To this the Jamestown, North Dakota *Alert* rejoins:—

"A difference of \$115 a car is a difference of about 20 cents a bushel. The only conclusion at which we can arrive, with the data before us, is that this 20 cents a bushel difference represents the profit the elevator men demand for handling the grain. It is too much."

It certainly is too much to enable the unfortunate farmer to make a living, but happily he

has a remedy by removing across the line into Canadian territory where there is no such extortionate toll, so that in addition to a better crop he can get a higher price for each bushel. In addition to its natural advantages Canada has the benefit of being governed according to a wise policy, which enables the settler to prosper—to make a comfortable and happy home.—*Toronto Empire*.

The Ruffed Grouse.

There is no bird more generally distributed throughout North America than the ruffed grouse, or the partridge as it is generally named. These interesting and familiar birds love the thick woods, preferring places where the ground has grown over with small trees and berry bushes. The close underwood about the borders of swamps is a favorite resort, and the old deserted clearing in the rough countries of Ontario became a paradise for partridges. The food of the partridge, in summer, is seeds, berries and insects. In winter the buds of trees, and some varieties of wild fruit that continue to hang on the bushes serve for support. In Manitoba the winter food of these birds is the fruit of the wild rose, thorn apples and nanny berries, the buds of the hazel and white birch are also eaten. Like other varieties of grouse, the partridges bury themselves in the deep snow during the cold nights of winter and gather into small flocks or coveys in order that the time may pass more pleasantly. Like all the grouse family the partridge is polygamous and does not go in pairs like pigeons or water fowl. The drumming of the male partridge has much of a puzzle to those who have attempted to describe the bird. In April the male selects an old moss-covered log, invariably in a close thicket; on the fallen tree the cock partridge takes his place, usually in the morning, and at intervals of a few moments beats his sides with his wings, commencing with a slow, heavy beat, the motion becoming more rapid and terminating in a kind of shivering tremble. The noise continuing while one might count fifteen or twenty and on a calm morning can be heard for a distance of a mile or more. In Manitoba partridges seem to be on the increase, as the birds are little sought for on account of the difficulty of penetrating amongst the thick underwood of the forests of this country, consequently partridges exist in considerable numbers wherever there are woods. The spruce partridge is also found in Manitoba, where the overgreen forests cover the country; it is dark in color and is not so social, gay and frisky as other varieties of the wood grouse. All these kinds make nests on the ground, often in very unlikely places, about a dozen eggs spotted with brown are laid. As soon as the wild little chicks are out of the shell they possess a sagacity and activity that is marvellous and can fly from the first. At this time nature also gives the mother bird a degree of wisdom, watchfulness, courage and readiness of resource that do not form any part of her ordinary character, but by means of which she becomes, for a time, the superior in intelligence of all animals that are her natural enemies.—*Exchange*.

A Hudson's Bay Veteran.

DEATH OF CHARLES WEIGAND WHO TAILED
ON HUDSON'S BAY SIXTY
YEARS AGO.

Mr. Thomas Weigand died at his home at Fort William recently at the advanced age of 92 years. He had been an old employee of the Hudson's Bay company at Moose Factory, Hudson's Bay, and had for years commanded one of the company's ships sailing in the icy waters of the far north. About twenty years ago he, with his family, came to this country by means of the long and tedious canoe route between Moose Factory and Michipicoten, on Lake Superior, and settled on the banks of the Neebing river, founding what is now the thriving little village of Weigandville.

His father was in the employ of the Hudson's Bay company in the early days of that company's existence, and Thomas, at the age of about fifteen, in the year 1813, came to Hudson's Bay to join his father. He also secured employment in the service of the Hudson's Bay Co., and served them continuously for about 60 years. For over fifty years of this time he was employed as a sailor on the waters of Hudson's and James' Bays and Lake Superior, his vessels being used for the distribution of freight to the various posts and stations in the different parts of the country.

In his experience as a sailor, it may be interesting to note that before the building of the Soo canal he was one of the sailors who volunteered to take one of the vessels of the company through the rapids of the Soo river, from Lake Superior into Lake Huron, a feat which had never before been attempted and has never since been repeated. For many years he transported all the mails from Lake Superior to the Hudson's Bay, and his experiences it may readily be understood, were varied and exciting.

Something like fifty years ago, the Hudson's Bay post at Hannah Bay, in charge of Weigand's brother-in-law, was attacked by Indians, and his sister, her husband and nearly all the employees of the post murdered. Mr. Weigand joined a party seeking retaliation and revenge and succeeded in shooting or capturing all the Indians but one who had participated in massacre. He leaves a family of eight children. His wife, the daughter of Thos. Cochrane, one of the Hudson's Bay Co. factors, died about 18 years ago.

Canadian live stock men are showing a great deal of interest in the World's Fair. F. W. Hodson, of London, Ont., writes to Chief Buchanan asking what the various states have done in the way of offering special prizes. He says the Canadian World's Fair committee is urging the Ontario Government to offer prizes for live stock to be shown at the Fair from Ontario. The committee is also asking that special prizes be offered for all kinds of Canadian exhibits.

The chrysanthemum is rapidly becoming a favorite flower outside of China. It is reported that a variety was recently discovered called the Hio-go, a remarkably pretty one, and for which a sum as high as \$20,000 has been offered.