

fare walking back to Ontario, but the States will retain many of the disappointed.

We went to the Emigration Agent in this part of Manitoba. He is located at Dufferin, about one mile from Emerson, on the other side of the Red River. Here are situated a lot of old emigrant buildings, and a large lot of land is in connection with this establishment, none of which is cultivated. A Mr. Tetu is the

GOVERNMENT AGENT.

We walked into his office and enquired for him. His assistant or clerk went for him into some of the chambers of this large house. We questioned him as an emigrant for an emigrant. "Where can work be obtained?" Ans.: "There is plenty of work to be had in Emerson." "What wages can a farm-hand get?" Ans.: "I do not know." "What can a carpenter get?" Ans.: "I do not know." "Where can I get any Government land?" Ans.: "That is not my business." "What quantity of wheat might I expect per acre from the first crop?" Ans.: "I do not know." "How many emigrants have you in those sheds?" Ans.: "About fifty." "Have you been to the emigrant sheds in Emerson?" Ans.: "No." "Why have you not been?" Ans.: "I have received no instructions." "Have you any instructions for emigrants?" Ans.: "No." "Have you any circulars or pamphlets?" Ans.: "No." "When did you issue your last circulars?" Ans.: "About two months ago." "Have you a copy of that circular?" Ans.: "No." "Where did you send them?" Ans.: "Principally to the States."

We asked several other questions that emigrants would be wishing to know, but we found this Government employee totally ignorant of the state of the country, and so careless as to be more inclined to drive away than to attract an emigrant to our Dominion. Whatever such a person is employed for is a mystery to us. We do not think there were one-quarter as many emigrants at his sheds as at Emerson. Those at his sheds appeared as if domiciled there. At Emerson information was needed also. If proper, truthful and correct information could have been given to many in regard to the position of the country and where Government lands might have been obtained without weeks and months of travel, toil and expenditure of money and patience, many hundreds of really good farmers and farmers' sons would now have been settled in our Dominion who are gone to the States, where they will remain and will draw their friends there. This is only one of the specimens of Government employees that we in Ontario have to pay.

We made enquiries at the Land Office at Emerson. Here we found an obliging land agent named Newcomb; this person would give us every information in his power, but he could not inform us where a free grant lot was to be obtained in that part of the country that was dry and fit to make a home on. He had a lot of wet land that a person might have if he would live on it. We saw some of the land, and have no hesitation in saying that it is unfit for settlement until it is drained, and that it would cost ten times more to drain a farm in this locality than the land is worth. There is a large quantity of really good dry land here, but it is either reserved or held by speculators.

Seeing the loss the Dominion is sustaining by having such an inefficient Emigration Agent, whose duty should have been to look to the requirements of emigrants and endeavor to prevent the loss of so many thousands of our best settlers, we sent the following telegram from Emerson to the four leading papers in the city of London:

"GOVERNMENT SHOULD AID DECEIVED CANADIANS TO RETURN—STOP PAUPER EMIGRATION."

These emigrants to Manitoba had expected free

grant lands suitable to make farms of, and that a small sum was sufficient to establish them in this part of our Dominion. Government reports, pamphlets, circulars, lectures and the newspaper reports had, they claimed, deceived them; they were vexed. Many with means and many first-class men have been maddened and deceived, and left our Dominion in disgust with the management.

We met many that had written accounts to the papers in Ontario, and they said these papers would not publish the facts. We went into Dakotah, and there they informed us that as many Canadians are settling there as in Manitoba; but this we do not think correct. However, we have lost many and are losing daily lots of good men that are really needed in Ontario. We saw men that had expended their little earnings in going to Manitoba and traveling about, at work on steamboats night and day for \$10 a month, and used pretty roughly at that. Some were waiting for money from Ontario to take them back; some had no such hope; some with money went to the States and intend to stay there to earn as much money as they had taken from their homes in Canada before returning. Many a sad sight we saw, many a hard tale we heard, and these from hundreds during our short stay.

We left Emerson, which is the second largest place in Manitoba, and went to Winnipeg. On the railroad from Emerson to Winnipeg the conductor tried to defraud us out of our ride by attempting to make us pay again. We heard that this is one of the sharp practices, and many emigrants that are not posted have been fleeced by these rascals. They did not succeed in defrauding us, but some one should make these conductors or the railway company disgorge their improperly gained cash and refund fourfold to those emigrants that have been duped. Here the Government is fencing in the railroad. For about fifteen or twenty miles along the line no animal could approach unless by swimming, and we might as well fence in the Atlantic steamers' course for fear of their running over cattle; but the people of Ontario have plenty of money, and contractors and engineers that have situations must be paid. Then this fence that is to be made of posts and rails must cost about ten times as much as a farmer would put up a better and more durable fence for. For instance, we find the progressive farmers use wire and take part of the bark off the posts or rails; we are informed that by removing a strip of the bark on two sides of this fencing wood that the posts and rails will last a great number of years, but if the bark is left on they rot and fall down in a short time.—Question: Who is to blame for this fencing with rotten poles? Who pays the piper?

We arrive at St. Boniface. Here we are met with another reserve two miles in all directions, and an expensive Government ditch put through this reserve, which of course is put on the wrong side of the road, and it has made the road worse than it formerly was (so they tell us). The earth from the ditch banks the water on the road. The road is beyond our powers of description, or your credence, if truthfully described; but more Ontario money must enhance the value of these reserves, for which enormous prices are asked already.

AT WINNIPEG.

The Manitoba Parliament was in session in the House at the time we were there. The discussion was about redistribution of seats for party purposes. It should have been—What good can the present members do to prevent the loss of emigrants? We spoke to leading members of the Government and to other members; also to the emigration agents and other officials, about this important subject. But here the speculators, members, officials, etc., have one and the same stereotyped cry, that is,

"THE EMIGRANTS ARE CHICKEN-HEARTED.

We do not want such; they will do no good here; we shall get plenty more good ones." Also they say they want money from the Dominion Government to build railroads, bridges, drain lands and make roads. Lots of these M. P. P.'s and other speculators hold from 20,000 to 100,000 acres of land each, large quantities of which cost them from 20c. to 75c. per acre, and they want from \$3 to \$10 per acre for it, and in Winnipeg \$45 per foot. They want our men with money and our public money, and the life services of the men that have not \$1,000 to expend in enhancing the value of their properties. Are these speculators to be made millionaires at the expense of this Dominion, without touching their own pockets? This is not right. It is the money that the Dominion is expending that has enhanced the value of these lands, and the lands thus rendered more valuable by our expenditures should be made to pay for their own improvements. We in Ontario have to pay for land improved by drainage or by roads. A heavy tax on all lands should be immediately levied, except on 160 acres held and occupied by a settler that is actually endeavoring to obtain his sustenance from the land. Many settlers hold a few thousand acres on speculation. The real settler has to make what little improvements there are made on the roads. There is much land that is not worth taxing; on the other hand, there are fine tracts that are valuable. Across the border whatever land is not worth paying a tax for reverts to the State; the same law could be advantageously put in practice here. It is our impression that the lands in Manitoba will be enhanced in value to the full extent of the cost of the railroad. Is it right that that increase in value should drop into the pockets of the land-grabbers, and Ontario be saddled with the cost of making these public improvements for others?

In this, the capital of Manitoba, we find lots of would-be settlers leaving because they have been deceived; they are angry, and some are going to take up land in the States, while others are returning to Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick. We do not wish to imply that all are dissatisfied. Those that were here early and have taken up land are generally pretty well satisfied. Many are in high ecstasies over their change, but we are losing far too many of our farmers' sons, who would make most valuable settlers. To stop this loss is what we now wish to principally direct attention to. In due time we can speak of the advantages of Manitoba, but there is not much need of that at the present time, as everything that the speculators, contractors or office-holders can do to induce emigration and place their advantages before the country is being done. The time is coming when the country will want the class of men it is now losing; in fact we need them in Ontario at the present time, but they cannot get here; the return trip costs about double the price required to go there.

We sent the following telegram from Winnipeg to the Hon. J. Pope, Minister of Agriculture, care of FARMER'S ADVOCATE office, London, Ont.:

"LAND-LOCKED EMIGRANTS RETURNING—YOU SHOULD COME—IMMEDIATE ACTION NECESSARY."

We also wrote to the Minister of Agriculture and Public Works at Ottawa, and sent a verbal message to him by Mr. McKenzie, M. P. P. of Manitoba. We received neither letter nor telegram. The rain showed no signs of abatement, and we, hoping to do good, returned more hurriedly than we intended. Our Manitoba friends, we hope, will excuse our abrupt departure, but we hope to see them again on our return. We wrote to the Ministers of Agriculture and Public Works, in Ottawa, offering to go there and give information that we thought might tend to the good of this Dominion; but the authorities did not deem such a course necessary, therefore we leave our readers to judge from this and future articles whether they approve of our observations and remarks.

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