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AGRICULTURE.

THE INEXHAUSTIBLE MINE OF WEALTH TO EVERY NATION.

(Continued from our last.)

IN resuming this subject, we will now endeavour to point out:

First: Why Immigration to Canada during the past thirty-five years has not brought to us the same advantages Immigration has done for the United States, in ratio with the same period of time.

Secondly: The method that should, in future, be adopted to colonize the unsettled lands of the country.

Thirdly: The advantages to be derived by young mechanics, who are now out of employment, becoming cultivators of the soil.

If we look back to the system adopted by Canada about the time when the great tide of emigration rolled over from the Irish coast to these shores, bearing on its waves a famished and fever stricken people, we find that the agents were then appointed, in Canada, by the Governor-General, and by the English Government in Great Britain; and, as it was then most desirable for the Home Government to encourage the emigration of an over-populated country and starving people to a colony like Canada, where land could be obtained at such reasonable rates, agents were appointed in all the principal seaports at home to superintend the shipment of them to North America; and, as now, agents were stationed at Quebec, Montreal, and cities further west to take charge of, and provide for them as far as possible, or forward them to their destination.

This enormous exodus from Ireland, which took place between 1840 and 1850, together with famine and fever, reduced the Irish population from nearly nine to about six millions. The agents, so appointed, were at the time gentlemen of the highest probity and noted for their kindness and humanity. Among them, the names of the late Mr. Buchanan of Quebec, chief Immigration agent, and Mr. Yarwood of the Royal

Navy—who died at his post from the malignant fever brought out by the emigrants—will long be remembered for their kind hearts.

We might naturally suppose that out of such a large augmentation to our population, many of them would have become thriving settlers—many farm laborers—many have turned their attention to mechanics—and, many become employed in domestic service—but such was not the case; out of that mass of human beings who crowded over into this country during those years, but few actually became permanent settlers; those who did where of that class who hired out as domestic servants. The greater portion, however, were assisted by the Government, when they had no funds, to go further West, and after drifting through the country for a short time, not knowing where to cast anchor, they passed over into the United States, where they found employment on the numerous railroads, canals, and other public works then being constructed, or got employment as farm laborers to the farmers on the fertile lands in the western territories, and many afterwards became wealthy farmers themselves, some of whose children are now prominent men. At that period when people were coming across the Atlantic in lumber ships freighted with from 300 to 500 human souls, so crowded were the wharves, that with difficulty could temporary accommodation be found for them; and had we at this period possessed a proper organization for settling these people in colonies, on certain districts, and assisted them judiciously until they became accustomed to the method of cultivating the soil, this large influx of people, amounting in ten years to hundreds of thousands, might have become a most valuable acquisition to the country as agriculturists, and our population increased to two millions greater than what it is at present.

After the appointment of immigrant agents, under self-government, became political affairs, we regret to say that, in many instances, a very inferior class were appointed to those who previously filled the office, and the position was frequently given to men totally unfit, either by education or experience, for the situation; so much so, that it would appear as if the Government then considered it a matter of little importance who filled the situation so long as emigrants were sent out to us,