



SOME portions of Eastern Canada are beginning to feel the symptoms of what might be called "middle age"—if there were any such thing in connection with nations. For one thing, they do not like to see their young men "emigrating" or even migrating away from them. New Brunswick has decided to make a systematic effort to keep her young men at home instead of permitting them to be lured off by the siren song of the West. They have good vacant lands of their own in this square little Province by the sea; and they make a very considerable effort to persuade the immigrant from Europe not to pass them by. But how much worse is it, they reason, that their own sons should overlook the advantage of settling on their own colonisation lands near home rather than venture into the far West where Doukhobor pilgrimages may distract their attention from farming operations and the political "land grabber" may steal the meadow lot when they are looking the other way. And this is much more reasonable than the common attitude in Eastern Ontario which complains mainly of the theft of the "hired man," and cannot understand why sensible people will pass a land laughing with the harvest where they can work for an energetic and early-rising farmer in order to seek out a country where they can get their own land and work for themselves.

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The lure of the West is independence. It is not so much that they grow good wheat out there very easily and very abundantly. Our ambitious young fellows might not leave the comforts and companionships and educational advantages of the East for a few bushels more of wheat. But this ability to grow wheat in paying quantities is one of the props of that independence which we all covet. Then a man may hope to own his farm in the West when he might only be allowed to rent one or possibly work on another man's farm here. He becomes a citizen standing on his firmly set two feet in the West when he would be nothing more than a dependent—a hireling—here. That is the star attraction. The "Home Seekers" who journey to the prairies are not more sordid than the rest of us. They are no readier to sell out civilisation for a handful of dollars. But either they see less chance than we do of securing independence in the East, or else they have more courage. As for the colonisation lands of the Eastern Provinces, they lack chiefly the attraction of a big success.

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People who are independent in the East sometimes are drawn by the talk of "big money" to the West, go there, look the country over, and soon return. It is not that they find the talk exaggerated, but that they discover that this "big money" has to be purchased by the sacrifice of many good things in life which can only be found in an older and more thickly settled community. Being independent here, they decide that the game of "big money" is not worth the candle. But the man, to whom life in the East offers nothing but a succession of years spent at the beck and nod—yes, and at the mercy—of some one else, sees in the prairie country an opportunity to become his own "man"—to buy his liberty quite as truly as any Southern slave ever bought his. And that is what he goes for. Schools may be few and

far between; entertainments may be an unknown quantity; shopping may be a sport denied his women folk; the next door neighbour may be discernible only by the smoke from his chimney. But every morning he rises to breathe the air of liberty; and every night he lies down with the sweet consciousness that his whole day's work has been done for himself.

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That is the magic light on the Western horizon. Liberty is still—thank God!—the sweetest morsel that man can roll under his tongue. What men have always been willing to die for, it is not surprising that many should be willing to sever old associations for and to deprive themselves of much that makes life full and fruitful. It is better to be free amidst hardship than a slave amidst luxury; and the hardships of the West are such as can be conquered with a laugh, while the luxuries which are open to those cannot "buy their liberty" in the East would not constitute a very great temptation to the most sybaritic soul. We hear a great deal about the robbery of the many by the tyrannical few who control "trusts" and similar predatory institutions these days. But the people will stand a lot of robbery which does not seem to impinge upon their liberty. Yet impinge upon their liberty it does; and when the whole people learn this, the privileges of these predatory combinations will not be worth a month's purchase.

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As for those of us who propose to live on in Eastern Canada, it naturally annoys us to have people move West who might stay here and improve the value of our real estate. But we should remember that they are not leaving the country. They are still within our tariff ring fence. They will still buy our industrial products and will probably be able to buy more of them because of their increased prosperity in the bountiful West. Then they will leaven that new population out there with Canadianism. We are always expressing our anxiety that there should be a large immigration thither from the British Isles in order to prevent the coming millions in the Prairie Provinces from being wholly alien to British institutions and British ideals. But it is quite as important that they should be Canadians as that they should be British. We do not want a population out there that will ignore Eastern Canada and look over our heads to the United Kingdom for their next-of-kin. That might produce some awkward results for us. So it is not good policy to grumble when our young families move to our own West in search of an independence which is denied them here—and it is, moreover, entirely useless.

At Calgary's Fair



Calgary's citizens, who had the enterprise to hold a July fair, are gratified by the eminent success it achieved in exhibits and attendance. This photograph presents a distinguished carriageful—Hon. W. H. Cushing, Minister of Public Works; Lt.-Gov. Bulyea, of Alberta, and President Van Wart of the Exhibition Association.