

Editorial Comment

Canada's Industries

Canadians should be aware of the possibilities of the country. It is rich in minerals, its waters abound in fish, its forests are inexhaustible, its lands are fertile and extensive beyond belief. The average production of wheat per acre in Australia, Argentina and Southern Russia is from 9 to 11 bushels. In Canada, in unfertilized lands the production is over 20 bushels for fall wheat and over 14 for spring wheat.

Canada is more favorably situated with regard to the markets of the world than any other of the new countries. It is 7 or 8 days from European markets, while Australia is from 36 to 42 days away, and Argentina 17 to 21 days away. The cost of conveying a bushel of wheat to England (previous to the war) was 3.87 cents from Canada; 8.97 cents from Argentina and 16.93 cents from Australia. The advantages in shipping live stock and perishable freight are even greater.

Natural Products

The industries of Canada may be divided into three great classes—those concerned with the securing of natural products, those concerned with growing things, those concerned with manufacture.

There are four or five outstanding occupations represented in the first group—mining, fishing, lumbering, trapping. The opportunity for successful pursuit of each of these in Canada is very evident.

The opportunities for the trapper are of course not so great as in early years, and there are few civilized men who will endure the solitary existence connected with this industry. Still there is much done every year especially by the native tribes. Over four and a half millions represents the sales in 1914. Gradually the fur farmer will take the place of the trapper.

The opportunities for the miner are very much greater. The prospector has done little more than make a rough exploration. Yet, Canada occupies an enviable condition among the nations of the world. She controls the market in asbestos, in nickel and in cobalt. The last normal return (1913) shows a production from all Canadian mines of 144 millions of dollars. Of this amount silver, gold, nickel and copper take first place among the metals, while among the non-metals, coal, stone, cement, natural gas, asbestos and gypsum represent the greatest output.

About 100,000 people are engaged in fisheries, this being the second great industry of the country, agriculture alone surpassing it. Among the products of deep sea fishing are cod, haddock, halibut. Inshore fisheries yield the same as well as herring, mackerel and salmon, and the well-known smelt, sardines and oysters. The value of the fisheries is represented by figures that are startling. Salmon yields approximately eleven millions, lobsters five millions, cod three millions, herring three millions, halibut two millions and mackerel one million, while our own white fish approaches the last figure. In 1913 the sea fisheries yielded nearly thirty millions and the inland fisheries nearly four millions. The government report of 1914 will summarize the facts with regard to the fishing industry in these words:

"To say that Canada possesses the most extensive fisheries in the world is no exaggeration; moreover it is safe to add that the waters in and around Canada contain the principal commercial food fishes in greater abundance than the waters of any other part of the world. The extraordinary fertility of what may be called our own waters is abundantly proved by the fact that apart from salmon, all the lobsters, herring, mackerel and sardines, nearly all the haddock and many of the cod, hake and pollack landed in Canada

are taken from within our own territorial waters."

On the east coast a stretch of 5,000 miles, on the Pacific coast, counting all indentations, over 7,000 miles of shore line represents our fishing ground. And this says nothing of the excellent fishing in the numerous inland lakes.

For years the value of the lumbering industry of Canada was not fully recognized, but now both individuals and government recognize its importance. Last year lumber was placed on the market valued at about sixty-six millions, pulpwood was valued at fourteen millions, while laths and shingles brought a total of nearly five millions. Of this over fifty millions represents the safest. "It is reckoned that there are five hundred million acres of forest lands in the Dominion, one-half of which may be covered with merchantable timber."

The Growers

The second group of industries is carried on by the **growers**—growers of grain, vege-

tables, fruits, cattle, sheep, hogs and the like. Agriculture is the fundamental industry in Canada as in practically every country. The value of Canada's field crops is close to four hundred millions; the animal product close to three hundred millions; the fruit crops close to thirty millions. This does not take into account the great amount used for home consumption. When a country has enough to feed its own population and a surplus of two hundred millions, even when only a small portion of its soil is under cultivation or in pasturage, there is surely reason to be optimistic. The surplus is sufficient to pay for all necessary imports and leave in the pockets of the farmers close to eighty millions of dollars. There is a strong feeling that if the markets of the world were free the net profit would be twice as great.

The Manufacturer

The third class of industries is represented in the manufactures. In these there are engaged about half a million people. As yet of course manufacture is but in its infancy, there is not a line which is not open to extension. The presence of water power and iron in a land rich in native products makes it probable that Canada will ultimately become the greatest manufacturing country in the world.

The Sweep of Prohibition

Many and great are the changes brought about by the war. Two years ago who would have believed that prohibition of the liquor traffic was imminent in this Dominion? In Prince Edward Island alone, the smallest of the Provinces, was prohibition in force at that time. New Brunswick was in large measure "dry" but had "wet" areas. In Nova Scotia the city and county of Halifax still had liquor licenses. In Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta there were many communities in which the liquor license system was in operation. Indeed, in British Columbia the system of local option had not even secured a foothold. In Ontario, in the June before last, there were Provincial general elections, and the dominating issue was the question whether the proposal made by the party in opposition to abolish her licenses and to continue only the sale of intoxicating liquors in shops for home consumption, should be adopted or rejected. It was decisively rejected by majorities in three-fourths of the constituencies of that Province—which is to-day in sight of prohibition, so far as a Province has power to enforce prohibition, for the period of the war, and probably, like other Provinces, for all the future. Manitoba led the way, declaring for prohibition by a majority of close upon 25,000 in the referendum on that question; prohibition came into operation in this Province on June 1. In Saskatchewan the people will decide by a referendum vote whether they are to have a continuance of the dispensary system or prohibition. The people of Alberta have, in a referendum, given their verdict for the extinction of all liquor licenses. New Brunswick and British Columbia are likewise to have referendum votes. It is thought that Quebec will be the only Province to maintain the liquor license system—though from many of its parishes liquor has been excluded, and the example of the other Provinces may prove influential. Already there is a strong movement afoot in Quebec for a referendum on this question. This great moral reform owes very largely to the war the extraordinary headway it has made in this Dominion and in Newfoundland, too, where prohibition has been adopted. That the ground it has thus gained it will continue to hold after the war, strengthening its position all the time, is hardly to be doubted.

Britannia's Answer

By Rev. McLean Watt

"She stood beside her Northern Sea,
And heard the traitor's tale,
The promised lie, the proffered fee,
If she'd stand by and let things be;
She flashed her answer firm and free,—
'Britannia's not for sale!'

"His bloody hounds he held in hand,
She heard their ugly bay;
She thought of all her noble band
Whose dust was strewn in every land,
Whose lives for honor made their stand
In many a battle day.

"O then she spake her word of might—
'Take back your bribe,' said she.
My hands are clean, they washed them
white
In their hearts' blood, who strove for
Right,
And spent themselves in valiant fight
That Europe should be free.

"Their courage, like their native oak,
The stronger grew through pain.
When proud Ambition's passion spoke,
They forward pressed through flame and
smoke,
To hell they shook the tyrant's yoke—
They'll face the task again.

"Lo, how they come to me,
Long through the night I call them—
Ah, how they turn to me.

"East and South my children scatter,
North and West the world they wander.

"Yet, they come back to me,
Come, with their brave hearts beating,
Longing to die for me.

"Me, the grey, old, weary mother,
Throned amid the Northern waters,
Where they have died for me,
Died with their songs around me,
Girding my shores for me.

"Narrow was my dwelling for them,
Homes they builded o'er the ocean.

"Yet they leave all for me,
Hearing their mother calling,
Bringing their lives for me."

"Rise they from graves for me,
Graves where they lay forgotten.
Shades of the brave for me.

"Yet my soul is veiled in sadness,
For I see them fall and perish.

"Strewing the hills for me,
Claiming the world in dying,
Bought with their blood for me."