

THE EXODUS AND BLUE RUIN.

THE EXODUS.

The natural resources of Nova Scotia are unrivaled by any country of like size upon the globe, and yet our young men leave the Province by scores and hundreds, in order, as they say, "to better themselves." With regard to this exodus, we should like to address ourselves to two classes in the community, firstly to the intending exodians, and secondly, to those who believe that blue ruin is staring us in the face. To the young men we would say, "think twice before you leave your native land." The attractions of American cities, and the novelty of Western life may lure you from your native town or village, but in nine cases out of ten, material prosperity and earthly happiness are more easily to be secured in old-fashioned Nova Scotia, than in the neighboring republic. Before deciding to leave your home, look well at the opportunities which surround you on every side; and when you are making your trial of an occupation, go at it with the same pluck and determination as characterize Nova Scotians abroad.

Nova Scotians at home are too lackadaisical; they possess vim and enterprise, but seldom apply the same to their daily avocations. To those having a taste for agricultural pursuits, the Province presents admirable opportunities. The fruit and dairy industries can, and should be increased to an almost unlimited extent. Sheep and cattle-raising, and the keeping of poultry, open promising fields to industrious young men. Our mines and fisheries are capable of great development, and should give employment to thousands of Nova Scotians who now seek work abroad. Let our young men weigh their chances of success at home before pulling up stakes and pitching their tent in a land where competition with the economical German and the frugal Swede, is fast reducing the wage to a mere subsistence.

BLUE RUIN.

We believe that our young men make a mistake in leaving Nova Scotia, but we are aware that in all newly settled Provinces or States, the young men have an inherent desire to leave their native land, and carve out for themselves fortunes in an unknown country. They hear much of the success of those who have preceded them, but seldom, if ever, do they hear of those who fail in making more than a bare living. Nevertheless, the inherent desire exists, and the young men of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and P. E. Island, like the young men of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, are impelled to take the advice of Horace Greely, and "go West."

Is there a cure for this evil? There certainly is; but our politicians are not Statesmen; they fritter away their time over petty questions, instead of bending their energies towards the building up of the country. Why have we not in this Province a properly organized "Bureau of Emigration?" Hundreds of thousands of emigrants annually leave the old world for Canada, the United States, and Australia. What efforts have our Provincial authorities made to turn the attention of intending emigrants to the advantages of Nova Scotia as a field for emigration? Are there not hundreds of agricultural laborers in the midland counties of England working at starvation pay, who would readily find employment in the agricultural districts of this Province?

Are there not hundreds of tenant farmers in Britain, who, if they but knew they could purchase partly improved farms for a few thousand dollars, would gladly remove with their families to Nova Scotia? And yet to the great bulk of these two most desirable classes of emigrants, the Maritime Provinces are unknown, and this because we have taken no pains to advertise our country. We want population; but if we sit with our hands in our pockets, and do nothing to encourage immigration, we will continue to want to the end of the chapter.

We hope that in the pending elections the candidates will be called upon to speak their mind upon the great questions bearing upon the prosperity of the country in general, and the best means of promoting it, leaving the discussion of more trivial matters for to-morrow.

TO PATRIOTIC NOVA SCOTIANS.

We are in the midst of a political battle, the din of which is re-echoed far beyond the confines of Nova Scotia. Our fellow countrymen in the Provinces throughout the Dominion have turned their eyes upon us, and are eagerly watching to see whether old Nova Scotia, the home of the descendants of the United Empire Loyalists, is determined to cut the ties which unite her to her sister Provinces, or whether her loyal electors will rise in their might and stamp out once and forever the flame of discord, disunion, and disloyalty, which has needlessly and wantonly been fanned in her midst. We believe that if our people study the question at issue as it should be studied, their answer will be at once forcible and decisive. Hard times we have certainly undergone, but so have the people of the Upper Provinces, the citizens of the United States, and our fellow subjects in Britain. If these hard times are in any way attributable to the policy of the Dominion Government, Nova Scotia will, within a twelvemonth, have an opportunity of altering or reversing this policy. If the financial position of a government which received nearly \$100,000 more than its predecessor is found to be embarrassing, and this embarrassment arises from the unfairness of the financial terms of Confederation, then we should exhaust every means in securing our rights before resorting to an ill-timed agitation which, if successful, would be disastrous to the commercial, manufacturing and mining interests of Nova Scotia, destroy the home markets which our farmers and fishermen know how to appreciate, and set the Province back at least a quarter of a century. Business may at present be dull and profits cut fine, but if any sane man believes that this Province is going to the dogs, he had better go into the homes of its people, note the comforts, not

to say luxuries, to be seen on every hand; observe the style of living, the dress and the habits of all classes, and then comparing these with those of twenty years ago, be convinced that we are to-day, despite hard times, enjoying a degree of prosperity which would have surprised the wearers of blue homespun two decades since. When a Province containing less than half a million of people annually manufactures goods to the value of \$5,000,000 more than were manufactured ten years ago, and disperses among its wage-earners a million dollars more than was distributed in 1874, it is plain to be seen that the men advocating the backward step of repeal are sophists, dealers in quibbles and fallacies. We do not propose to uphold or condemn either the Liberal or Liberal-Conservative party, but we cannot allow our country to suffer at the hands of men whose real motives in creating this agitation are personal and political, not patriotic, and we therefore trust that at the coming elections Nova Scotians will stand to their arms and refuse to follow the lead of politicians who seek to obtain the suffrages of the people by such mean and deceptive methods.

THE FISHERIES.

Not satisfied with having prevented the appointment of a joint commission to settle the "Fisheries Question," the American fishermen have petitioned Congress not to remove the duty upon fish. Their plea is, that they are so taxed under the protective system of the United States that the measure of protection, one cent a pound on cured mackerel, half a cent a pound on cured herring and cod, and twenty five per cent on cured salmon, which they now enjoy, is not sufficient to recoup them. They plead that they are taxed thirty five per cent on canvas, two cents a pound on cables, three cents a pound on wire rope, that the cost of a vessel's hull is increased by ten dollars a ton, owing to the duties, and not less than twelve hundred dollars are added to the cost of an outfit for a voyage.

The New England fisherman will certainly require to be protected if he is obliged to compete with our fishermen under existing circumstances. We can build and man our bankers at less cost than can the Americans, but we hold the key of the position in being able to obtain a bountiful supply of bait, while our cousins are by their own action cut off from this privilege. If Uncle Sam wishes to have this question settled amicably, he must look at it on both sides. To allow the free use of our fisheries, and to have the American government discriminate between fish caught in American and Canadian bottoms, is decidedly one-sided fair play.

HARD TIMES.

When the Home Rule party adopted the motto "England's calamity is Ireland's opportunity," they simply applied to their own case a principle which seems to actuate every political party in opposition. If a country suffers from military reverses or from trade depression, those who are not of the powers that be are ever ready to make political capital of the public distress. Free Trade in England, and Protection in this country are assailed at the same time and on the same alleged grounds, by different political parties. It is clear that both are not right in their contentions, furthermore it is certain that, in ascribing commercial depression to any single cause, both are wrong. Indeed, so various, and so difficult to remedy are the influences which adversely affect the general prosperity, that one can see a glimmer of political wisdom in Dr. Johnson's couplet, interpolated in Goldsmith's "Traveller":—

How small, of all that human hearts endure,
That part which laws or kings can cause or cure!

For assuredly many of the social evils of to-day have been recurring all through the centuries, and have worked their own remedy more effectually than legislation could have done; and the periodical returns of "hard times" are oftener the result of general shortsightedness than of defective commercial laws. Over-production, rendered possible by the general use of labor-saving machinery unattended by any shortening of the hours of labor, is largely to blame for the present distress among artisans. Special causes are also in operation in particular countries. In England, for instance, the turning of agricultural lands into game preserves and sheep-walks, has led to an undue centralization of the population in towns. The English farmer, moreover, is unable to hold his own against the competition of America and India in wheat raising, and he has not yet adapted his methods to his altered circumstances. Again, British capital is often rashly invested. In electric lighting alone, for example, about forty million dollars have been invested unremuneratively.

It is well known that in the American Republic, commercial distress has been the normal state of affairs during the last few years. Now, when we consider this general distress, in the United States and in Europe, we must be blinded by prejudice or pessimism if we do not actually congratulate ourselves on the comparative absence of such a condition of things in Canada. Whatever measure of praise or blame is due to a government for general prosperity or adversity, let it be paid; but when the wave of hard times sweeps over all the civilized world no government can be held responsible.

We note that in many counties the repeal agitation has been dropped, and that the government candidates are relying for support upon the record of the Fielding administration. Electors must remember that the outgoing government is alone responsible for having brought forward the disunion policy, and upon that policy they desire an expression of opinion. Nova Scotian patriots will on the 15th inst. have an opportunity of giving practical expression to their views.