

an old land are successful on the prairie until they have cleared their minds and judgment of many of the deep-set prejudices they brought with them to their new home, and unlearned much they learned in early life, which however useful in their native land often proves only an encumbrance in a new country. This is a mistake to be carefully guarded against by settlers following agricultural pursuits, and no matter how well a man may be posted about farming in an old land, he will be wise if he commences to recover from nature in her primeval state to keep steadily in view that he is once more only a learner.

But observers from other view points than the agricultural will find much to wonder at in the prairie country. The straight-laced business man would go crazy over many of the loose-jointed arrangements of business here, and still he would be astonished at how smoothly the crude system or want of system works. Yet a critic of that class would discover more real weak spots than one in any other line. The business communities of the Canadian Northwest are growing older, and the pioneer ideas of business are beginning to prove defective and not up to the situation. Besides there are scores of merchants in business all over the prairie country who never received any mercantile training in early life, and it would be folly to expect business run upon business principles from all of such men. Many such make good business men, but many work under great difficulties for want of proper business knowledge and the result is often failure. There can be no doubt, but in connection with mercantile affairs, particularly in our smaller towns, there is a larger range for reform than in any other field, and this fact is beginning to be generally recognised all over the country. Of course reform does not mean the complete substitution of the system of older countries for the usages now in vogue here. Still it is a fact that the man who received an early business training has here as well as in other countries a great advantage over others who never received such a training.

But the greatest shock likely to be received by the Old Country arrival in this new country would be in connection with our social arrangements. Society is not graded into several classes here as yet, and the absence of social barriers between people in different spheres of life, would be a severe shock to many punctillious people. Here the man of wealth and education feels that he has no claims of superiority over the poor and illiterate man, and the latter feels and acts on his claim to equality. It is a notable fact, however, that with what might be called in older countries the lower strata of society, there is in this country a nice power of distinguishing between independence and insolence. The most independent amongst them feel that it is a duty to be respectful, and a crowd of smoking loungers at a loitering place or even in a tavern door, would every man of them remove his pipe from his mouth and cease to puff smoke for a few seconds, while a lady was passing close beside them.

The relations between employer and employe also differ widely from older lands. There is more familiarity and a sense of mutual interests to be guarded, and at the same time there is an absence of the undue familiarity, which is said to breed contempt. The independence of a laborer, with pick or shovel in hand here would astonish the new arrival, and yet the courteous and considerate manner in which that independence is displayed would be equal cause for astonishment.

Another phase is the view from the moral standpoint, and no Northwesterner is ashamed of the view his country presents on this point. In the older places crime of a serious character is almost unknown, while on the frontier line you could not find one specimen of the reckless desperado not uncommon on the frontier further south. The community as a whole are a sober lot, and drunkenness has not the hold upon the masses, which it has in so many older countries. True the bar room has its patrons, but it has but a few even in Winnipeg, who linger round it day in and day out, sapping life away in dissipation. Even the bar room is not purely a swill den in the Northwest, and many strengthening and health producing beverages are served up there instead of alcoholic drinks. It is quite common to hear in the winter an oyster cocktail called for, and served in the shape of three oysters in a wide mouthed glass, peppered, salted and vinegared all ready to swallow. A beef tea hot is also a favorite beverage in the winter, and the manufacturers of Johnston's Fluid Beef and "Staminal" ship into the prairie country annually thousands of cases of their goods, a large proportion of which is dished up in warm strength producing beverages over the bar, in the place of alcoholic drinks. Up to three years ago there existed in the Northwest Territories a liquor prohibitory law, which during the days of construction of the C.P.R. across the country, was a very useful and valuable safeguard. After this work was completed the law was looked upon by many as a piece of unnecessary tyranny, and a system of evading and defying the law commenced, and with its spread went the spread of drunkenness. The repeal of that law was a thing dreaded by many, but strange to say, that since its repeal drunkenness in the Territories has been steadily decreasing, and is now down to where it could never be seen or noted by the visitor.

As an agricultural country the people of the Northwest have reason to be proud of their country, as there is no better in the world. Of the business situation no one need be either afraid or ashamed. If success is not so general as it ought to be during the present and general depression, matters will bear comparison with those of any other country, and once depression gives way recovery must be rapid as the country is burdened with no load of wrecked speculation. Of the moral and religious state of the Northwest there is great cause for congratulation. This is the only portion of North America in which the organization of schools and churches kept pace with the westward sweeping wave of settlement, and this fact is doubtless closely connected with the other fact, namely that we have an utter absence of that state of reckless crime on our frontier, which was the curse of many a beautiful frontier land to the south of the International boundary.

This issue of THE COMMERCIAL will circulate as a souvenir of the

#### WINNIPEG INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

Here an effort is being made annually to concentrate the progressive forces of the country; and by meeting and comparison so stimulate healthy progress. It is a source of pleasure to know that this year the Exhibition will much more than ever before bring together evidences of the progress of the great prairie land, and prove a great stimulus to the development of our invaluable and limitless resources. It cannot be that the \$15,000 offered in prizes at this exhibition is the source of attraction. The fact is that people all over the