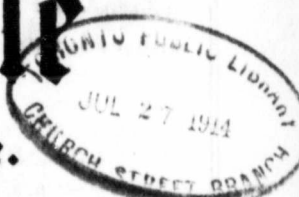


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## THE LONDON "ECONOMIST'S" PESSIMISTIC VIEW ON CANADIAN CONDITIONS SOMEWHAT MISLEADING.

The London "Economist," in its issue of July 11th, has an editorial entitled "The Distress in Canada," which we consider as couched in an unduly pessimistic tone. In the first place exception might reasonably be taken to the title of the article. We have a trade and industrial depression—no one attempts to deny it—but it is open to question whether Canada is suffering in that respect any more severely than the United States, Argentine, Brazil, British India, and various other progressive countries. Of course there is distress here as in the other countries named, and as in the United Kingdom and the countries of Continental Europe; but perhaps there is no more of it in Canada than elsewhere—the selection of this caption for the article conveys the impression that our distress is exceptional as compared with that of other countries.

The article first deals with the crop question in Western Canada, as follows: "To judge from the latest telegrams, the wheat crop, which is likely to be superlatively good in the United States, will only be a moderate one in Canada, as the effects of the drought have been severely felt in large districts of the West. But the size and value of the crops are still problematical."

It is true enough that the dry weather of the beginning of July gave the wheat a set-back in several parts of Saskatchewan and Manitoba; but it is not to be assumed as yet that there will be a crop failure in the West. Within the last few days one or more of the most reliable experts have placed the probable yield for the three provinces at, roundly, 190,000,000 bushels. If a crop of that size is harvested, the result would be practically as good as a year ago. There is not now quite so much nervousness as to the prices which the farmers will receive. A little while ago it was eared that the big American crop would serve to

send wheat prices to a discouragingly low level, but now it is thought that there is a good chance of the producers getting reasonably satisfactory returns.

The "Economist" perhaps conveys an erroneous impression where it refers to the United States crop as superlatively good while the Canadian crop is mentioned as only a moderate one. With reference to this passage it should be remembered that it is the winter wheat or soft wheat produced by the southwestern and central western States that is exceptionally good. The conditions prevailing in the American spring wheat territory have been much the same as those prevailing in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and presumably the results will be somewhat similar on either side of the boundary.

The main point, however, of the Economist article, is based on telegrams said to have been sent to England by the Ottawa correspondent of the "Yorkshire Post" and the Toronto correspondent of "The Times" to the effect that "unemployed persons in Canadian cities who have been in Canada less than three years and have become a charge on the public funds, are to be deported at the expense of the shipping and railway companies which brought them into Canada, although it is notorious that the Canadian Government was largely responsible for attracting them."

There appeared in the Canadian dailies a short time ago notices or intimations that the Dominion Government was to take the action as mentioned by the correspondents quoted by the Economist; but the general opinion in well-informed circles here is that the Government officials would use their powers in this respect judiciously and carefully. It is not supposed that there will be any wholesale deportation of immigrants of good character who are temporarily out of employment.

If it turns out to be the case that Canada has a much larger number of workmen than she needs, the situation will be corrected most likely in a normal manner. That is to say the men for whom no employment is in sight will migrate to their

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