

The Emigrants of 1891.

The annual report of the Dominion Minister of Agriculture as presented to the House on April 8th, said of last year's immigration :

The total arrival of immigrant passengers and immigrant settlers last year was 187,378, as against 178,921 in 1890. Of this number 37,114 entered at custom houses with settlers' effects. The number of immigrants who arrived last year, and reported by the agent to the Dominion Department as having stated their intention to settle in Canada was 82,165, as against 75,067, in 1890. The children brought out from workhouses in Great Britain in 1890 were inspected by the officers of the Department and their reports are generally very satisfactory.

Mr. J. T. Stenshorn, agent at Regina, reports an increase of settlers in that district during the past year, the Germans outnumbering all other nationalities. From personal observation he is able to report that the settlers have prospered beyond their most sanguine expectations, and he cites the experience of one

Deer district has brought the latter into easy communication with the main line, and Mr. Miquelon reports 300 townships between Calgary and Edmonton, on each side of the river, now offer the greatest advantages to settlers; the soil and water are good, and coal and wood abundant. The whole of Mr. Miquelon's report will well repay perusal.

Mr. B. L. Baldwinson, Icelandic agent, furnishes a full report on Icelandic colonization during the year, describing his visit to Iceland and operations there, as well as his visit to various colonies of Icelanders in Manitoba and the Northwest. In it is shown the progress and present position of the Icelandic portion of the community. The Icelanders have proved to be very valuable settlers, and their steady application to work, industry and thrift have placed many of those who first came out in comparatively easy circumstances, and all settlers of that nationality appear to be prospering. Mr. Baldwinson gives details of all the Icelandic colonies, all of which are satisfactory.

Mr. A. S. Gerald, who looks after immigrants who arrives at, or pass through, Prescott,

Binder Twine.

A debate took place in the house at Ottawa recently on binder twine. On motion to go into supply, Mr. Watson, M.P., for Marquette, moved :

"That it is computed that fourteen million pounds of binding twine are annually consumed by the farmers of Canada in harvesting their crops; and, whereas, they are subjected, under the present tariff, to a duty of twenty five per cent. ad valorem, having thereby inflicted upon them a tax of \$400,000 and upward per annum, while at the same time fishermen are allowed to import twine for use in their business free of duty, and it further appears that the revenue derived from the duty on binding twine for the year 1891 amounts to \$6,192, and consequently the tax of over \$400,000 is imposed upon farmers of Canada without any appreciable advantage to the revenue, such taxation being doubly unjustifiable in view of the exemption allowed the fishermen of Canada in respect of twine used by them, that it is expedient that binding twine be placed on the free list."

A considerable debate upon the binding twine question has been looked forward to for some time. Many petitions have been sent to



C.P.R. HOTEL AT BANFF, (CANADIAN NATIONAL PARK.)

out of the many Germans settled there, to show what a few years steady industry will accomplish, combined with thrift, frugality and hard labor. Mr. E. L. Alexander, the agent at Moosejaw, reports a number of homesteads taken up within a radius of within 15 to 20 miles of his agency, but the total number of immigrants was not as large as in the previous year. His reports on the yield of crops in this district is most interesting and an evidence of the fertility of that section of the country is given in the allusion of the Moosejaw agricultural show last October.

Mr. J. Z. Miquelon, the agent at Calgary, reports an increase of some 700 settlers over last year. From careful enquiry he ascertained that the following averages per acre were the yields of the past year : wheat, 37½ bushels; oats, 44 bushels; barley, 30 bushels; potatoes, 312 bushels; turnips, 419 bushels. These returns were obtained from 49 replies to a circular sent out by him covering a district in Alberta from south-west of Macleod to north of the Saskatchewan Valley. The Calgary & Edmonton railway passing through the Red

states that 611 were dealt with by him during the past year, of which 357 were arrivals from Europe who had gradually worked their way up to New York state before crossing into British territory. Whenever possible he obtained employment for those asking it, and he reports keeping a record of parties wanting help which materially benefits both the immigrant and the employer. Mr. Gerald only reports immigrants arriving without effects at that port of entry, those who are possessed of such being reported at the customs, and appearing in the general custom's returns.

Mr. C. K. Frederickson, agent at White-wood, reports on the Hungarian colony settled in his district, which comprises also Bohemians, Germans and Roumanians. He states that although very few of these people brought any capital with them, they are now, owing to the two last bountiful harvests, in a fair way to independence, and they are generally adopting mixed farming. The immigrants last arrived at this agency are reported as arrivals elsewhere before reaching this district, and consequently do not count in his tables.

Ottawa, in favor of free binding twine, and from remarks let fall by members of the Government at various times in the past year, it was even thought by some that the Government might favor the placing of twine upon the free list. This idea, however, has proved a mistake, as Mr. Watson's motion was defeated by a full party majority.

The item of binder twine is a very important one to our farmers. In Manitoba alone, according to the statistics of the provincial agricultural department, 3,795,193 pounds of twine were used last harvest. Computed at 15 cents per pound, this makes the large amount of \$569,278.95 paid out by Manitoba farmers for twine. This is a large amount of money to be paid out by the limited number of farmers who yet comprise the agricultural population of Manitoba. Cheap binder twine is therefore to be desired in the interest of the farmer.

A branch of the bank of British North America has been opened at Woodstock, Ontario.