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## CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Feb. 10th, 1877.

### LABOR FOR WILLING HANDS.

The more we reflect on the causes which impel our countrymen to seek a home in the United States, the more the conviction forces itself upon us that it is almost entirely owing to the want of organized labor. Labor, pure and simple, is abundant enough in the country, considering its area and population; but what is wanting is organized labor—that is work so distributed, so graduated as to prove both honorable and remunerative. Labor of this kind may be divided into three classes: agricultural labor, skilled or mechanical labor, and professional labor.

With regard to the first, it cannot be denied that there is land enough, land of sufficiently good quality to employ all those who wish to till it. It can be made, too, a paying occupation, if the proper use is made of it. But it is equally undeniable that our Canadian peasantry have not kept pace with the progress of farming in that they adhere with obstinate tenacity to old-fashioned ways of a century ago, and that the routine which they follow is the one most calculated to fatigue their acres instead of preserving or increasing their producing qualities. In sowing time, in haying time, in harvest time, our farmers, instead of leaving everything to the rains and sunbeams of heaven, should employ the various arts of modern husbandry to push on the growth of vegetation and improve its quality. In winter time, instead of sitting idle with crossed arms and smoking by the kitchen fire, instead of promenading for weeks together from parish to parish, they should work at a thousand and one trifles of the field and the farmyard, which in the aggregate would ameliorate their possessions. Order, regularity, constant attention, improved methods of farming are the rules by which agriculture will not fail to be made a paying employment.

In the Townships and less inhabited portions of the country, we are aware that the pioneer needs help from the Government and country corporations to open up roads, to clear forests and organize settlements, but the misfortune has been until now that, while the authorities have not done all they should do, neither have the farmers done their share of their duty. There has been a degree of dilatoriness, of hesitancy on their part which has greatly retarded the civilizing work of colonization.

With regard to skilled labor, there is comparatively little of it in this country, and what there is can be fully employed here. Mechanics of all kinds can find work enough in Canada, without being obliged to go to the United States. This is so true that of all our emigrants, there is not one in a thousand who is a skilled hand. The great majority hire themselves to the Americans for any and every kind of rough work. In this department the laws of demand and supply balance exactly. The more manufactures will multiply in the Dominion, the more skilled labor will be required, but as until now our manufactures have been comparatively scarce, so have mechanics been few in number. We believe, then, that the want of skilled labor cannot be pleaded as a reason for emigration. We fervently hope that the country will awaken to the necessities of manufactures, whereby it will become self-sustaining and independent, in great measure, of other nations, and that thus, it will increase the number of mechanics and make their occupation more lucrative.

As to professional labor, there is undoubtedly a surfeit of it. All the professions, considering the size of the country, are overstocked. Farmers' sons who might be well-to-do at home, must, if they receive some education, engage in a profession, under the foolishly mistaken notion that they thereby elevate their social status. They forget that the farmer's vocation is the most independent and manly of all pursuits, that among the Romans, and even to-day, in England and the United States, the first men of the land are engaged in agriculture. Of course, if the professions are encumbered, there must be poverty in them, which is the more deplorable, as the sufferer is generally helpless, his peculiar studies having pretty much unfitted him for any other occupation. Still, no professional men emigrate to the United States, as is very natural. If a young lawyer, notary, or doctor cannot find work here, he will be still less able to do it yonder, especially if he be imperfectly acquainted with the English language.

It follows, therefore, that out of the three rounds of labor which we have enumerated, there is only the first which is said to be wanting here. It is only the farmer or agricultural class that emigrates. This simplifies the problem considerably, and renders the application of the necessary remedy much more easy.

### THE EXAMPLE OF FRANCE.

We have several times felt it our duty, in view of our commercial and financial depression, to call attention to the wonderful prosperity enjoyed by France, in spite of the terrible struggles through which she has passed. Other facts having come to our knowledge, we think it well to give our readers the benefit of them.

It seems that that thrifty republic has an annual revenue of \$500,000,000, which is \$150,000,000 more than that of Great Britain. To be sure, France has a somewhat larger population, but, on the other hand, she has nothing to parallel the commerce and the foreign possessions of England. When Germany imposed upon France the enormous fine of \$1,000,000,000 at the close of the late war, it was supposed that the latter country was hopelessly crippled for at least a generation. But she has completely recovered her former spirit, and is now spending more on the reorganization of her army than it cost during the pompous days of the Em-

pire. It is estimated that the disastrous war and the foreign occupancy cost nearly \$2,000,000,000, and this illustrates the marvellous elasticity of the finances of France. It is to be remarked that the panics which have swept over Europe and America have had very little effect on France. Her people never go in debt. There is no commercial speculation in that country, and having no debts to meet there are no fears of an inability to pay, and hence no panics. It should be remembered, too, that France retains the silver unit of value, which is common to what is known as the Latin Union, comprising France, Belgium, Switzerland, and Italy. These nations are all prosperous, while Germany, England, and America, where the gold unit prevails, are all suffering from hard times.

But there is another reason for France's prosperity: she obtains great prices for her manufactures. Luxuries always fetch more than necessities in proportion to their cost. Skill, ingenuity, and taste are extravagantly paid for. France thus lays the whole world under tribute. Her fancy goods command fancy prices. Being fertile and imaginative, she takes the raw staples of all the world, and they are transformed at her touch. She adds to their market value five times, ten times, a thousand times. This phase of French industry deserves study and imitation. As long as we are content to deal mainly in the raw products of the earth—in wheat, corn, cotton, wool, skins, minerals, so long we shall be relatively poor, because we shall receive only the wages of unskilled labor. To coinwealth we must transmute these and elaborate the useful into the luxurious. We must cultivate more and more the arts of peace and give the maximum value to the raw material. To attain that leisure that comes with wealth and that culture that comes with leisure, we must copy France.

### THE PROSPECT IN THE EAST.

The Eastern Conference is said to have ended in failure. The term needs to be qualified. If it is meant that the attempts of the Powers to force the Porte into an abdication of its sovereign rights over the Danubian principalities have utterly failed, we quite agree with the verdict. But it would appear that, notwithstanding the departure of the ambassadors, the Turkish Government is decided upon giving the demands of the Conference, up to a certain point, as thorough a fulfilment as possible. Therein the cleverness of Turkish diplomacy is displayed, and it may yet turn out that MIDHAT PASHA has outwitted and out-marshalled IGNAZIEFF and all his fellow-representatives. If Turkey really carries out the reforms which she promises, and especially if she can succeed in negotiating directly with Prince MILAN, of Serbia, and Prince NICHOLAS, of Montenegro, there appears no reason why Europe should further interfere, nor why Russia should oppose any other obstacle to the final maintenance of peace. Russia, of course, will find it somewhat humiliating to recede from her rather boastful position, but she can do so with some grace, by invoking the solidarity of all Europe, as represented at the Conference. That is indeed the burden of the circular just issued by Prince GORTSCHAKOFF. He calls to mind the fact that, through Russia's initiative, an understanding between the great powers was brought about at the beginning of the Eastern crisis. This agreement was disturbed by the rejection of the Berlin memorandum, but was shortly after restored on the basis proposed by England. The Powers at the Conference unanimously submitted their demands to the Porte, which declined them. Prince GORTSCHAKOFF considers that Europe, by its united diplomatic action, has proved it is deeply interested in the maintenance of peace in the East, and that it recognizes it to be its duty as well as its right to co-operate for that end. On behalf of the general interest, the Russian Government, being guided by a desire to maintain European

accord, in the new phase of the Eastern question, has, before coming to any decision in the matter, instructed its representatives to ascertain for certain what course the governments to which they are accredited mean to pursue, in view of the refusal of the Porte to accede to their unanimous wishes.

CONSTANT EFFENDI has been instructed to proceed immediately to Cetinje, to open negotiations with Montenegro. Serbia is comparatively indifferent as regards Montenegro, because the latter's geographical position precludes effective co-operation on her part with Russia. Montenegro is therefore laying great stress upon an agreement by which the Principalities promised not to act independently of each other. The Prince has sent most positive assurances to Belgrade that he will only act in union with Serbia, as he sees that by solidarity with Serbia he will be able to extract much better terms from the Porte.

MISSUS HILL and ROBERTSON, of the Nova Scotia Government, have been in conference at St. John with Attorney-General KING, representing the New Brunswick Government, on the subject of maritime union and a common emigration policy. It is thought the Government will agree to abolish their emigration agency in England, which has been held by Hon. WILLIAM ANNAND.

A DEPUTATION from New Brunswick waited on the Government recently, to urge a continuance of the subsidy granted to New Brunswick at Confederation. The ten years for which it was granted expiring this year, it was decided not to continue the subsidy, on the ground that were it granted, Quebec and Ontario might demand better terms.

THE publication of *Les Droits de l'Homme* has been suspended for six months by the Government, and the editor sentenced to three months' imprisonment for insulting the President and Republic, and justifying the Commune. This is the eleventh prosecution of papers.

A MADRID despatch states that proceedings have been commenced between Spain and the United States for a revision of the treaty of 1795, so that citizens of either country, when in the other, can be judged only by civil Courts, even in Cuba, unless taken in armed rebellion.

THE Porte has sent a despatch to its representatives abroad giving notice of the appointment of three Christians to governorships of the provinces, and declaring the application of reforms to be proceeding unremittently.

### LACHINE CANAL IMPROVEMENTS.

This canal is eight and a half miles in length, and extends from the City of Montreal to the town of Lachine; thereby enabling vessels to avoid the St. Louis or Lachine Rapids, which are the first of the series of rapids which interrupt the navigation of the River St. Lawrence, at a distance of 986 miles from the Straits of Belle Isle.

Its situation at the head of ocean navigation, and at the junction of the Ottawa River with the St. Lawrence, makes it very important as the only outlet for the combined trade of those rivers.

The enlargement now being carried on consists in widening and deepening the prism of the canal, rebuilding the St. Gabriel and Cote St. Paul locks, the construction of five new locks, the Wellington dock or basin, and seven bridges. From the Wellington Street Bridge to Cote St. Paul lock, the width of the canal is to be two hundred feet, and thence to Lachine, one hundred and fifty feet; the present average width being one hundred and twenty feet. The inside slopes as far as the St. Gabriel lock will be lined with a vertical dock-wall, laid in hydraulic cement mortar, and above that point with heavy slope walls of dry rubble. The depth above Wellington Bridge will be thirteen feet, but the foundation of all masonry is laid at such a depth as will allow of future deepening, if required, to fifteen feet. The new locks will be built alongside the existing ones, and will be two hundred and seventy feet in length between the gates, and forty-five in width. The two lower locks are to have eighteen feet of water on the mitre sills, and the basins as far