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EDITORIAL.

The Rebellion of Mr. Jones.

"The hired man will 'Americanize' Canada. He has already started to do so. In 1896, practically all the available wheat lands in this country (the U. S.) had been claimed. In that year, less than half a hundred homeseekers ventured over the border into the free lands of Manitoba. There they settled to raise wheat—and they raised good wheat. The next year, more hired men sought independence of landmasters, and they, too, took up wheat land over the line. People began to look at maps. Russia is the wheat-field of Europe, yet Manitoba, Assiniboia, Alberta, and even Saskatchewan, are south of her wheat belt, and faith in the new land grew. It has been eight years since that first invasion of hardy half a hundred, and in that time a quarter-million men trained on American farms have settled in these Territories. They have Yankeeized the western half of the Dominion. They have already openly talked of severance from the throne of England, and their representatives in the Parliament halls of Ottawa have pleaded for a Continental Federation of States. It is only a matter of time till the tail will wag the dog."—[Richard Lloyd-Jones, in Collier's Weekly.]

The above is a fair sample of the unadulterated rubbish which some guileless Canadians admit to their homes under the wrappers of U. S. papers and magazines, against which some effective quarantine should be enforced by the Canadian Government. Ignorance and audacity could scarcely go to greater lengths than has this Mr. Jones, but any combination of that sort will suit to a nicety a large tribe of bumptious U. S. periodicals. It is all very fine to classify the "American exodus" to the Canadian West as simply a movement of "hired men," instead of full-fledged, well-equipped farmers and heads of families, seeking better agricultural conditions, escaping from the tyranny of the trusts, the oligarchy of wealth, municipal misgovernment and mob law, for the true freedom of British institutions, as developed under responsible government in Canada. According to Cy Warman, the American writer who finds it most wholesome to live in this great Dominion, this 250,000 army are just men who are "Coming back to Canada today," having seen the halo of the U. S. West dissolve. "Severance from the throne of England!" There are just two ways in which that can be brought about—one by the franchise in the hands of subjects of this fair realm, and the other by rebellion. It's "only a matter of time," but Mr. Jones has not yet decided which way it is to be brought about. This gives us opportunity to breathe, and get the general election and Thanksgiving Day over before the "wagging" process begins. Will the Western representatives who, according to Mr. Jones' story, have been pleading in the Parliament halls of Ottawa for a "Continental Federation of States" please rise in their places. We have not been able to find any record of such orations in the Hansard. Mr. Jones will find the voting process a terribly slow method of overturning British institutions, which are wrought in the very fibre and constitution of this loyal land, and he will find it still harder to work up a rebellion among a prosperous, happy and contented people. He should tackle an easier proposition first. The "Farmer's Advocate" invites him to come over and grow up with this "Greater Britain," where there is land and opportunities for millions yet unborn.

Building Materials.

Older Canada has never suffered for want of building materials. Frame houses followed the log shanties as soon as the revenue of the homesteader would warrant the expense of building, and the frame houses, in turn, are giving way to those built of more substantial materials. Stone and brick, because of their availability, have, naturally, been largely used for building materials on the farm, both for dwellings and stables, but the increasing popularity of cement for building purposes would seem to indicate that concrete is to supersede all other material for construction work in the future. All over the country there are to be seen illustrations of the uses and value of cement concrete in stable walls, silos, and even in the walls of dwellings, but the aesthetic tastes of our people demand something more attractive for the outsides of houses than the plain or even marked surface of a concrete wall, hence the noticeable advance in public favor of hollow concrete blocks for use in the walls of the more pretentious buildings, such as houses, factories, etc.

The hollow concrete blocks have several commendable features for building purposes, and few, if any, uncommendable ones. They fulfil the demands of an outside building material as to durability, appearance, cost, porosity, and as non-conductors of heat. The first-named attribute no one questions, and with the rough-surface moulds that are being used, blocks of unrivaled appearance are made, resembling, according to the color used, the best limestone or Credit Valley brown. As to cost, much depends upon the locality in which the material is to be used. Some builders, being convenient to a brick kiln or stone quarry, are able to secure material at very favorable rates, but when one is equally distant from the source of supply, a wall of concrete blocks can be built for about two-thirds the cost of one of stone, and fully as cheaply as one of brick. The necessity of using a porous material for walls is well understood, and concrete, especially in the form of hollow blocks, answers the builder's demands in this respect as well as any other materials. As a nonconductor, the concrete-block wall is less satisfactory than one built of wood, but lacks nothing in comparison with brick, and is considerably better than stone. The nature of a building material, with regard to its conductivity, is a most important consideration, for if a material like iron or stone, both good conductors, were used exclusively in building it would be difficult to retain heat inside in winter, or exclude it in summer—very necessary conditions to the comfort of a building. Wood, as a building material, is one of the best nonconductors we have, and a house whose walls are built of this material is least affected by the changes of outside temperatures. In the making of concrete blocks, effort has been made to produce a building material that is a good nonconductor, but from the very nature of the substance used, blocks must always be inferior to wood as nonconductors. In the blocks, however, the hollow air space prevents excessive conduction of heat, and renders the material of much more practical value than it otherwise would be. We would, therefore, recommend intending builders to estimate carefully to ascertain which of the three common building materials—brick, concrete blocks or stone—can be most economically secured, and which will be the most satisfactory when installed in the walls.

Why has not Eastern Canada a Greater Farming Population?

In an address recently delivered at a Montreal banquet of manufacturers, Hon. G. W. Ross is reported as saying: "We have scarcely begun to work up the raw material which Canada supplies into marketable commodities. Ontario does not cultivate more than twenty per cent. of her arable lands. She could sustain a population of ten millions. She has a little over two millions. And Quebec could do quite as well." This may seem to many, at first sight, an extravagant statement, especially the first clause, as the prevailing opinion has been that practically all the fairly good agricultural lands in these Eastern Provinces have been cleared, and are cultivated, in a way at least, as farm land. The reference, we take it, applies largely to the unsettled areas of what is now known as "New Ontario," and to northern parts of the Province of Quebec, which have hitherto been considered much less suitable for farming than those now under cultivation. Of the extent and character of those improved areas the general public have doubtless very imperfect conceptions. The few who have been over the ground to a greater or less extent, speak in confident terms of the suitability of a large percentage of these lands for agricultural purposes, while the timber which covers them, being readily marketable when the new railways being projected are built, may be disposed of to advantage by settlers as the first crop harvested, thus enabling them to make a hopeful and encouraging commencement of farming. The Provincial Government have certainly hitherto been remiss in the matter of advertising the claims of these areas in the sources of immigration, the only excuse being the lack of transportation facilities, which there is now a good prospect of being supplied. Practically the whole force of immigration agencies has, in the last ten years or more, been directed to exploiting the Canadian Northwest, with the result that not only has the stream of immigration passed through the eastern provinces, leaving only here and there a solitary addition to the population, but by the inducements held out by the Dominion authorities and agencies, thousands of the most energetic and ambitious of the farmers' sons of these Provinces (and large numbers of heads of families, as well) and the best of the hired help have been attracted Westward, leaving a shortage of farm help, which is being so keenly felt as to become a serious problem for the eastern farmer to solve, leading many to resolve to reduce the extent of their cultivated land, by selling, renting, or laying a larger proportion down to grass for pasturage purposes.

The result of all this is that the rural population of Ontario, at least, has not increased, but, rather, declined in the last decade or two, while the population of the cities has grown rapidly, and the West has been filling up at the expense of the Eastern Provinces, their many agricultural advantages having not been appreciated at their worth. There is little room for doubt that had the same energy been exerted by the Ontario Government in attracting immigrants to remain in the Province that has been exercised by the Dominion and Manitoba authorities in inducing them to go west, a much larger percentage of immigrants could have been persuaded to make their homes here, for a time at least, and to their own advantage, as the experience gained by working on a farm here would be very helpful to them in tackling a farm for themselves, either in the east or the West.