

"It is unquestionable that the facility for acquiring land in the United States has been the main reason why agriculturists go thither. The same reason may be potential in the cases of any who may now think of improving their condition by a change of nationality. Liberal though the provisions of the United States homestead act are, yet they involve on the part of our countrymen who profit by them a renunciation of their birthright as citizens of the British Empire. This is a sacrifice even more keenly felt by most of them than the severance from the place of their birth and beginning life anew in a strange land. This consideration has induced many emigrants to prefer the long voyage to New Zealand or the Australian colonies to the far shorter trip across the Atlantic. The Dominion of Canada has always invited immigrants, but, till recently, that splendid country had nothing to offer which could rival the prairie States of the far west. All this is changed, however, and the emigrant can now find in Canada as great inducements to settle there as in Minnesota or any other State of the Union can offer. The Canadians, if more scrupulous, are less energetic in advertising their country than the citizens of the North American Republic. Conterminous with Minnesota is the Province of Manitoba. All that Mr. Andrews has said in favor of the former may be truthfully repeated with regard to the latter. The area of Manitoba is but small in comparison with that of some Western States; yet it is twice as large as Massachusetts, and it can support many millions of people, and furnish a large surplus of grain for exportation. Yet Manitoba is but a single province in a territory which is open and ready for settlement, a territory covering 380,000 square miles, exceeding in extent France and Germany combined, and equal in fertility to any corresponding tract on the globe. In the Canadian North West there is a Homestead Act under which the settler is treated still more generously than in the United States. He pays but \$10 for his title to the 160 acres which are granted to him on condition that he resides there three years, and he can obtain another piece

of equal value on paying \$1 an acre. At the period of obtaining the land absolutely, he must be a British subject by birth or naturalization; this provision is one which gives immigrants from the old country no concern. We do not advocate any measure of wholesale emigration, because we entertain the confident expectation that brighter days are in store for suffering agriculturists in this country. The present crisis will pass away, as other times of trial have done, and will leave behind it some profitable, if bitter and trying lessons. Yet our fellow countrymen who are discontented with their lot, who have a practical knowledge of farming, who possess a little capital, will do well to inquire whether the prairie lands of Canada are not superior in some respects to those of the United States."

#### IMMIGRATION IN 1880.

Professor Macoun, in the lecture which he recently delivered in Winnipeg, stated that next spring thousands of immigrants will pour into the interior by way of the Assiniboine river. Since that statement was made the Government have undertaken the removal of certain obstructions in the navigation of that stream, and by so doing they are performing a very important step towards facilitating immigration next season. Over 200 miles of mud travel will be saved by this water route, and this of itself will prove a great boon to the immigrant. During last summer several steamers plied between Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie, and in the early part of the season they ran as far as Fort Ellice. It is expected, however that by the removal of some boulders which obstruct navigation when the water is low, steamers will be able next summer to run as far as Fort Ellice until late in the fall. If this expectation is realized, it will have the effect of settling up a fine tract of country lying beyond the present limits of the Province of Manitoba. Of this new territory Professor Macoun thus speaks:

"See what a country is thus opened up! South of the Assiniboine and east of Qu'Appelle there are from six to eight millions of acres in this one