

here, when investor and practical farmer are one and the same individual. In mercantile pursuits it must be acknowledged that, with the exception of some new points, the field is sufficiently taken up for the present, and in many other directions the prospect is not more inviting.

With all the above named fields, either filled or giving little promise, the best opening now left is the industrial sphere, and here the field is only limited by the progress of the country. The number and class of immigrants now flocking into the Northwest, notwithstanding the former discouraging predictions of its enemies, prove that the progress of the country is not going to be slow, and that its agricultural resources are to be developed rapidly; and unless we adopt the foolish belief what eastern people have arranged and ready for us, namely, that this can never be anything but a purely agricultural country, the time has come when agriculture must be supplemented by manufactures if the Northwest is ever to become truly great. The time has also come when general manufactures must become profitable, if they are conducted with true economy.

To lay a foundation for industrial progress, resources in raw material are an absolute necessity, and it is gradually being realized on all hands that in the Northwest such resources are practically unlimited. Within two years we have all been convinced that coal without limit is to be had at a score of points, and instances are not few where this fuel and valuable iron and other metallic ore are to be found lying almost side by side. Gold and other valuable metals, it is not necessary to mention, as the keen scent of the prospector has already found them out for the capitalist to develop, although on their development the true progress of the country does not depend. To these mineral resources in raw material must be added the adaptability of our rich soil and cool summers for the growth of material suitable for the manufacture of textile fabrics, and the wide scope the country affords for wool producing. Looking at all these points it cannot be denied that in raw material for manufactures the supply at hand is abundant, and that to be produced from our soil can soon be made equally so. The field for manufactured products while yet limited, is ever increasing, and must in a decade or two become the most extensive in Canada.

When all these advantages are calmly

surveyed, it cannot be denied that in industrial fields the encouragement to investors is greater than in any other, and if as much effort was only put forth to direct capital into this channel as was expended to secure investments in non-productive real estate a few years ago, the industrial progress of the Northwest during the next decade would astonish not only the outside world, but even those who put forth the effort.

A NEW INDUSTRY.

An English gentleman, Mr. J. A. Body, contemplates erecting a flax seed mill in Winnipeg, and is now making application to the City Council for exemption from taxation for such an institution, should he establish it. It is not our intention to dictate to the Council as to how they should act in the matter. Some of our Aldermen may deem the institution unworthy of the consideration asked, and prefer following their aesthetic proclivities by bestowing favors on a magnificent hotel, or some ornamental institution.

The importance of a mill of the class proposed by Mr. Body, is not, we are afraid, generally comprehended in the city. In the first place it will commence an industry hitherto unknown in the Northwest and while proving profitable to its proprietor will cheapen an oil in daily use throughout the country. It will also provide a local supply of oil cake for cattle food, and whatever may be the drawbacks connected with such food for stock in a southern climate, it must be a valuable one in our northern latitudes owing to its heat producing power. Another advantage from an agricultural point of view is to be found in the fact that flax is the only crop that can be successfully and profitably raised on newly broken prairie land. Hundreds of thousands of acres have been cropped on the newly turned sod during the past five or six years throughout the Western States, notably in Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska. The emigrant coming here can thus secure a crop the first year he settles on his land, and avoid much of the pecuniary struggles pioneers have to go through when compelled to wait two years for a crop. Crops on sod ground in the States above named have ranged from 15 to 30 bushels per acre, and there are instances where in the Mennonite settlements of this Province much heavier yields have been secured.

The establishment of a flax seed mill in this city, while it would be a valuable in-

dustry in itself, would be another link between the farmers and the city, the more of which we establish, the more do we contribute towards centering the business of the surrounding country in the city. Institutions which are such general benefits in their workings should receive every encouragement, and we have no doubt but our City Council will bestow some on Mr. Body's proposed new mill.

POSITIONS OF TRUST.

It has always been the case that in a new country, where business affairs have not reached that perfection of working at which we aim, that the employer must place more confidence in his employee than in older countries, where everything is set down more to system. In one sense this is a wise arrangement, as it makes the interests of both mutual, and their intercourse practical in its results as well as friendly, but at the same time free from that ceremonious stiffness and support of conventional dignity on the part of the employer, which too frequently reduces their common interest to a consideration of how much money the one can make by his connection with the other. The fact that the wealth of an employer in a new country is frequently not much in excess of that of his employee, has, no doubt, much to do with the existence of this mutual feeling between them, as it lays the foundation of the belief that the success of the one must necessarily be the profit of the other. In most situations in mercantile life in a new country, the employee holds a position of trust beyond what even a manager holds in an old country, and it is probably in a great measure due to this fact that so many men whose real business training before reaching this Province was very limited, often prove of much greater value to employers than those who arrived here finished in their line, and perfectly competent so far as business knowledge is concerned to fill any position connected with their calling. If we look over the situations of great trust now held in Winnipeg, we cannot fail to see that the large majority of them are filled by men who received their training here, or at least the principal portion of it. The civil service is no doubt an exception, but it would be folly to believe that the appointments therein are made according to business ability. This fact should be a warning to men coming from old countries and expecting to step right into prominent positions. Their business training may have been good, but it is so frequently associated with conventionalism which it takes years to unlearn. It must not be thought, however, that this knowledge is of no value. Once they have commenced down the ladder a little, and acquired the most necessary qualification of adaptability, all their knowledge will be valuable. Until then it is comparatively useless.