



W. C. W. Arncliffe's Jersey Heifer "Invincible," Jersey Champion and 1st prize at Bath and West of England Show at Bristol, June, 1903.

A Scotchman's Plea for Canada

It ought to be a question of absorbing interest to the people of Great Britain, that there has, of late, been an enormous influx of settlers to Canada from the United States. That it is not so, points clearly to two conditions—the insular apathy with which the people of Great Britain regard their colonies, and the crude and general ignorance which prevails as to the immense and valuable resources of Canada.

Notwithstanding these two conditions, one would think that past experience of the "cuteness" and pushfulness of our American cousins would lead Britain to suppose that the interest Jonathan is now taking in Canada, is due to the fact that he sees dollars in all the sources of material wealth which are now being so rapidly developed. It is only because of ignorance that English capital and English labour is being forestalled in this direction.

FAST RESOURCES

By one who has made several pretty extensive tours in Canada, who has traversed her great arteries, not only on the railway from St. John and Halifax in the East to Vancouver in the West, but also her great waterways of the St. Lawrence, and that chain of inland lakes which stretches from the Atlantic to the centre of the continent—who has seen some of the great mining and lumbering interests of the East, the fine agricultural developments of Ontario, the great and fertile prairies of Manitoba, Assiniboia, and the North-West Territories, the ranching land of Alberta, the enormous mineral fields of the Rocky Mountains, and the apparently inexhaustible timber resources of the Pacific Coast, and who is, nevertheless, convinced that the half has not been seen or understood, it can hardly be conceived that a territory so vast, resources so enormous and varied,

and natural facilities so potential, should as yet be possessed by a population no greater than can be found in London and two adjoining counties. When we mention that there are millions of acres in the middle of this great territory that can annually produce, with the minimum of labor, and without manure, and that for many years in succession, crops of from 18 to 30 bushels of wheat per acre. That the same land, when devoted to animal husbandry will produce beef cattle of pure quality in little more than a natural pasture, and that, in spite of the sparseness of population the mining, manufacturing and shipping interests are being rapidly developed, it can readily be seen how large a share of material wealth awaits those who will first lay hold upon such possibilities.

THINGS HAVE CHANGED

The enormous and phenomenal developments of the United States has hitherto overshadowed Canada. The citizens of that great republic have had a certain confidence in their own almighty and a scarcely veiled contempt for the British Colony to the north of them, but that is now being changed. The advantages of Canada are too obvious to be longer despised and already not a few of the best and greatest elements of the wealth of Canada are controlled and operated by American capital. It has doubtless long been a source of annoyance to Canadians that this is so, that the money and population of the mother country should so long stand aloof from such a field—and that strangers for whom they have no special warmth of heart should get such a share of the good things of the land. "But," say they, "we need population, we need capital to develop our country, and better have American people and American dollars than none."

WHAT THE FUTURE HAS IN STORE

It is idle for the average Englishman to speak of Canada in groups of figures, but just let him take a map of the world, let him compare the extent of England, Scotland and Ireland, nay even the continent of Europe, with the extent of Canada, and then let him think that the population of the British Isles is six times greater than the population of this British colony that stretches across a continent. Let him look at the outlet of Lake Superior, where it pours its surplus water into Lake Huron, and then consider that at present the tonnage passing through the two canals which connect these two lakes, is greater than all the tonnage passing the Suez Canal, that the great territory to the north and west of Lake Superior is as yet only being opened up and developed, and he may have some idea of what the future has in store for those who will inhabit and develop this land.

FROM A "FIRMLY CONVINCED"

From my earliest visit to Canada in 1878 to my most recent, 1902, I have marked with satisfaction the growth and progress of Canada and the enterprise of her people. My first impression of this founded a conviction which has never since been shaken or weakened, that the commercial policy of the Mother Country, both as regards her home interests and that of her colonies, was weak and short-sighted. When I considered the high tariff levied on English exports, the wall of exclusion to English goods, which was built up by countries to whom England was the best customer, and the consequent development of material resources, calculated not only to make these countries independent in their own markets, but powerful rivals in the markets of the world, I could not help advocating retaliatory measures. To hint at a tariff on imported food stuff or manufactures was enough to bring ridicule on myself as a reactionary protectionist, and the ultimate bearing of such a policy as a lever to break down the tariff of other countries, was never even looked at.

ENGLISH OPINION HAS CHANGED

How far a change has taken place in public opinion on this subject is not easily estimated, but that a great and deep wave of thought is now swelling in the minds of the English people on this subject, is no longer to be denied.

The advantages of commercial combination with our colonies of the lines of preferential trade would seem to be obvious, and it is suggestive that the first overtures in this direction should come from Canada. That no advances have as yet been made in return is no proof that they will be permanently refused. There is a strong under-current at work. Our artisans and manufacturing population have begun to realize the effects of fore-