

neft her own people, she has, on the one hand, an immense home population, insufficiently employed, and, on the other hand, accessible territories, won by the bravery and enterprise of her sons, and still held by the Crown, suitable for the production of all the food and raw materials that she can possibly consume. The problem for British statesmen to day is, how to utilise those resources, so as to benefit the nation and make the empire absolutely independent of foreign countries for its vital supplies, in peace no less than in war.

Hitherto, the great colonies have been peopled through the necessities of the individual emigrant. Badness of trade, failure of crops, or personal misfortune of various kinds, have induced persons in the mother country to emigrate. They brave the ocean passage, and the greater risk of obtaining employment or finding a settlement under new and often uncongenial circumstances. During a visit to Manitoba, last summer, when nearly a hundred miles west of Red River, I met a ribbon weaver from Coventry. He had toiled with his little effects in ox carts, for five days over the wet prairie from Winnipeg—and had yet several days further to travel before settling his family on a free 'homestead.' Emigrants, such as this, endure great privations, but they ultimately succeed; yet I could not but feel that as a representative of the class of voluntary immigrants by whom the great North-West is destined to be peopled, the Coventry weaver was suffering disadvantages, to a large extent, due to the *system*.

Mr. Froude, in the *Edinburgh Review*, some time since urged assisted Imperial emigration to the Colonies, instancing the result of the opposite policy in the case of the Irish exodus to America. But no Government has hitherto been found prepared to favour such a scheme; nor has it been influentially advocated by the press or in Parliament. Emigration hitherto

has been individual, not National or Imperial. It is, therefore, very unlikely that the British taxpayer will consent to an outlay in which he has no direct advantage, merely to relieve the home labour market, to benefit the unsuccessful surplus population, or to people Colonies, that in return may exclude his manufactures by protective tariffs.

To gain the consent of the British people to an expenditure for emigration, it must be shown that the outlay will be beneficial to the home population; and that while the Colonies are being developed, increased trade and greater independence of foreign nations will result to Great Britain.

The imports of foreign and colonial cereals have now reached the enormous value of over sixty millions sterling, per annum. The growth of this vast product has furnished no employment to the British people, nor has the profit upon it, in any way, benefited the British taxpayer. It has, indeed, been landed at the ports, chiefly in British bottoms, and so has yielded employment to Great Britain's unrivalled commercial fleet, but there the commercial benefit has ended, for the price has to be paid in gold.

Instead of thus paying strangers and rivals for her breadstuffs, why should not Britain produce them herself from lands of the Crown? If the manufacture of their own ships and war materials by the British Government can be justified on sound principles of political economy, is it unreasonable to produce the food of the people? The alternative is no longer avoidable, Britain must continue to enrich rival nations from which she purchases her corn, or she must produce it for herself as a national enterprise. In the history of nations, the opportunity seldom arises to utilize vast tracts of fertile Crown Lands, within easy access to the mother country. Britain enjoys this rare opportunity to-day in the Dominion of Canada!

Within fifteen days of Liverpool there is an unlimited area of fertile