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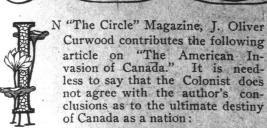
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The American Invasion of Canada

VICTORIA SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST



It was in 1901 that I first came into personal intimacy with what was then popularly called the "Yankee invasion of Canada." I travelled 2,000 miles in a "colonists' car" crowded with men, women, and children from Iowa and the two Dakotas; drank coffee boiled over a "community" stove, ate with them, became a partner to their new hopes and new ambitions, and for many weeks after that lived among the thousands of Americans who had already settled upon the fertile prairies of Saskatchewan and Alberta. When I returned to the States, it was with the conviction that the "Yankee invasion" was inevitably tending toward annexation. Everywhere I found the old home love among Americans; I saw Fourth of July celebrated as enthusiastically in little communities of the almost unsettled prairies as in the villages and towns of my own State; I came in contact with the unpleasant rivalry existing between the "true subjects of the king" and the patriot invaders from beyond the border—and I was satisfied then that there was more truth than romance in the argument of the Conservatives that the Liberal policy of drumming up immigration" was bound, sooner or later, to swamp western Canada in an inundation of Yankees whose politics and "American tendencies" would act like a boomerang upon the destiny of the Dominion.

Twice during the next five years I went 1901 turned into cattle-sheds and my friends of the emigrant cars happy in the possession of modern homes; I saw hustling villages and towns where before had been only mile posts, gazed upon thousands of acres of wheat land where before were only rolling prairie and forest. For hundreds of miles I rode horseback through regions settled only by Americans and Canadians. There remained little of the prejudice and rivalry of five years before. A new "political idea" was taking root in the end of the Canadian West, not until one has West-an "idea" that brought Americans and Canadians together in fraternal neighborliness, and made their interests one. For the third time I returned to the States, and this time with a modified conviction. There would either be annexation or a new nation would rise in the North.

Once more I have viewed the results of the

invasion," and this time, after having witnessed its various phases for a period of seven years, there is but one conclusion to arrive at: The "new idea" has taken firm root. A new form of education is, and has been, at work in the Canadian West, and in every phase it spells the birth of a new nation. Unnumbered thousands of Americans-not bankrupt and indigent people seeking easily acquired homes, but industrious and ambitious farmers from the West and Middle West, with their deepseated ideas of independence and their inborn hostility toward anything that smacks of "allegiance"—are mingling in general prosperity with other thousands of Canadians, whose ideas of citizen government, of law, and of social ethics can not but meet with their approtwo torces dovetailing in every-day life, meeting in the schoolroom, the church, and the home, are bringing about that 'mean level" of thought which looks neither to Great Britain nor to the United States for its trend, but which, in the words of an American mayor of one of the new towns of the West, "is digging out a channel of its own." Half a dozen years ago there was a powerful opposition in Canada to the Government's immigration policy; today, from the provinces of the East to the Pacific coast, that opposition is practically gone. The "Yankees" were feared before they came. Throughout Quebec and the East they were regarded by half of the population as the "American peril." Now the situation is vastly different, and can be realized fully only by those who have watched this radual change in the sentiment of a nation. The Americans have come; they have built towns and villages, and have populated the prairies, but they have proved themselves pleasantly disappointing. And just as "pleasantly disappointing" have they found their

Canadian brethren. These facts, as I will attempt to show, have built up a condition in western Canada which exists nowhere else in the world today, and to see which one must travel beyond the border towns and cities. It is in these border towns that numerous writers, and especially newspaper editors, gather that "material" which never fails to portray a feeling of jealousy and resentment on the part of Canadians toward Americans, and which has gradually engendered an apparent feeling of unfriendliness between the peoples of the two countries. This is eminently unfair. It gives a wrong picture of conditions as they are actually workng out in Greater Canada. The border towns the Dominion have always been jealous of he border towns of the United States, and there are very natural reasons for this.

Before describing conditions as I recently ound them in the Canadian West, it may be best to give some idea of that great human mechanism which is now working to attract ettlers from the United States, and the results is achieving. This human mechanism works directly from Ottawa. Its campaign in America is carried on as cautiously and with as much

ranks. Its "fight for people" is centered in the United States. Canada is now unanimous in its desire for new citizens-and especialy for Americans. They are even preferred to the English, as one will discover in almost every town or settled community of the great west. Consequently the campaign has never been more effective in the United States than at the present time. In the chief cities of eighteen states of the Union are situated the "great captains" of the Dominion Government's campaign for settlers. In other words, in each of these cities is a chief agent, and under these captains are a host of lieutenants, who are working ceaselessly in the building of the new nation. Every moment these men are on the watch for new ideas, new opportunities. Milions of copies of descriptive booklets, millions of maps and finely illustrated brochures, are circulated among the farmers. Alluring and costly exhibits of Canadian farm products are shown at the State and county fairs. Stereopticon lectures, in which the vast opportunities of western Canada are graphically described, are given in ru places. Thousands of dollars are spent in newspaper and farm-journal advertising. And the campaign does not cease here. From the far west prosperous farmers are induced to make visits among their friends in the States. Their transportation is paid by the immigratic 1 department, and in return they tell these friends of the free homes, the plenty and prosperity, that await them in the new land. There is no fraud about this remarkable campaign for American settlers. The Canadian West is a land of great opportunity, and over the same scenes. I saw the log homes of consequently the immigration department can go to almost any length in its inducements. One of its favorite schemes is to form a party of half a dozen or a dozen representative farmers in a certain district and send them through

> settlers are the result. Not until one has travelled from end to actually lived among the settlers, eaten with work in the most prosperous farming com-

the West, where they are royally treated and

their expenses paid. Nine times out of ten

these parties return to the States enthusiastic

about the new country and its people, and new

In view of this apparent prosperity of the majority of those who leave their American homes for a new west, the questions naturally arise: Why do they go? What are the reasons or the attractions that induce hundreds of thousands of Americans to seek new homes across the border?

There are several "popular" and easily un-derstood reasons for the exodus. The Dominion Government gives a settler absolutely free 160 acres of land, and that settler may choose the location of his own home; and when these 160 acres of land are under cultivation, with good barns and a residence upon them, this man's taxes will not exceed \$10 or \$15 a year. If there is but one settler living in a certain district, and that settler possesses eleven or more children, the Government will build a school for him. In other words, there must be a school in any district that boasts of eleven children; and, moreover, if this school has an average attendance of six during the year, it is entitled to an annual grant from the Government, a grant which covers teacher's salary and nearly every other expense of the school.

There are other and potent reasons for the emigration. While travelling westward from Winnipeg in a "colonist" car, I became very well acquainted with a family of seven from Iowa-three strapping sons, two daughters, and the parents. They were of the most intelligent class of farmers, unusually prosper-ous, and there seemed to be not the slightest reason in the world for their leaving their fine old farm back in Marshall County, less than fifty miles from Des Moines. I asked the head of the family for his reason, and he said:

"Well, you see, it's this way: As long as the boys were young, the old farm was big enough. But now all three of them want to start out for themselves. I didn't want to see them go to work as 'hired help,' and the farm wasn't big enough to split up into four shares. So we figured that if we sold it for \$5,000 and went up into Canada, every one of us would have a 160-acre farm with homes on them, and we'd all be together."

This is one reason that I found in almost them, talked with them, and slept under their every western community that I have visited. roofs, does one realize that this campaign of the Dominion Government in the United is given a big farm free, and, by emigrating, States is not what I might call indiscriminate, whe father at once sees him on the road to pros-In other words, Canada is, in a way, selecting perity. The opportunities now open in the her new citizens from across the border. The West are tending toward bringing about anpolicy of the immigration department is to other interesting condition—the stemming of the rush of rural young men into American munities—to send into the West settlers, not cities. Last year 14,000 of those who crossed poverty-stricken and indigent, but with flocks the border were young men between the ages and herds and chattels of their own. Statistics of eighteen and twenty-five, and during the go to prove this. During the year ending coming year the immigration department of June 30, 1907, 56,652 American settlers went the Dominion plans on making a powerful ef- four or five years ago were tilling the fields or

N "The Circle" Magazine, J. Oliver Curwood contributes the following article on "The American In
The Circle" Magazine, J. Oliver strategy and thought as though an actual war was being waged upon the Yankees; the movement has its commander-in-chief, its "cabinet," into Canada, and with them they took property valued at fourteen million dollars, an average of more than \$250 for every man, woman, and into Canada, and with them they took property valued at fourteen million dollars, an average of more than \$250 for every man, woman, and into Canada, and with them they took property valued at fourteen million dollars, an average of more than \$250 for every man, woman, and thought as though an actual war into Canada, and with them they took property valued at fourteen million dollars, an average of more than \$250 for every man, woman, and thought as though an actual war into Canada, and with them they took property valued at fourteen million dollars, an average of more than \$250 for every man, woman, and thought as though as though as though an actual war into Canada, and with them they took property valued at fourteen million dollars, an average of more than \$250 for every man, woman, and thought as though as t I have found among Americans in western Canada another reason for their emigration, and one which it is not pleasant for an American to dwell upon. I have found considerable dissatisfaction with the States. "Back in the States the farmer has to raise five dollars' worth of produce in order to earn one dollar for himself," said an Ohio man who emigrated to Manitoba four years ago. "It's constant. graft from the time you take your potatoes or your fruit to the station until you receive your cheque; and while apples, for instance, are selling at panic prices in the city, the farmer isn't offered enough to pay him, for picking them up from the ground. The American farmer who is near enough to a big city to market his own stuff can make a mighty good living, but it's hard for the fellow who has to ship. Up here it's different. Every man owns his own farm, and it is big enough to enable him to make a good living even if prices should go low." But the dissatisfaction of American colonists in the Canadian West does not go beyond conditions. I do not wish to imply that our emigrating people, though expatriates in the true sense of the word, have lost a whit of the love for the land they are leaving. But, at the same time, one will not find five settlers in a hundred who favor annexation, and I do not believe there is one out of fifty of the older settlers but who would vote against it were such a proposition put before them. This is not because they prefer British citizenship, which in reality is a thorn in their side. I do not believe that it is generally understood in the States that the American emigrant who takes up a homestead in Canada must become a British citizen. This, however, is true. Before a settler is given his patent or deed, he is compelled to discard American citizenship and swear allegiance to the crown, thus becoming, in word and fact, "a subject of the king." As a result of this, the voting power of Americans in western Canada is becoming tremendous. For nearly 1,000 miles westward from Winnipeg, along the line of the Canadian Pacific, the population of the towns and country is more generally American than that of the State of New York, and Alberta, especially from the border northward to Edmonton, might be regarded as a typical American State. Between Calgary and Edmonton, a distance of 200 miles, one may travel along the line of the railroad from house to house and five out of every six people en-countered are Americans. Forty thousand people from the States have settled the country between the two towns. Both Calgary and Edmonton are hustling American cities, and so are a score of smaller towns ranging northward from the Montana border. Many of these places, from Winnipeg to the far West, have reeves and councils made up of men who

the present time between 375,000 and 400,000 American settlers from Winnipeg west, with a possible voting population of 120,000, a percentage which is naturally high because of the fact that thousands of men without families are seeking their fortunes there. Of these 120.-000 males above twenty-one years of age, it is estimated that at least 40,000 have already become British citizens, and the others will undoubtedly "swear allegiance" as soon as their three years of residence in the country expires and they are ready for their patents.

And what does this great army of American voters in Western Canada signify? What will be the ultimate result of the controlling influence they are now exerting in Western Canadian politics, and which they will continue to exert more and more each year? These are questions of tremendous interest to the people of the States, and they bring us at once to the unusual condition which now exists beyond the border. The hundreds of thousands of Americans in the West do not consider that they have merely adopted a new country; instead, the sentiment is general among them that they are making a new country, and that they are copartners, on equal terms of ownership and rights, with their Canadian neighbors who have emigrated from the eastern provinces of the Dominion. They do not regard themselves as aliens, but as pioneers—the first conquerors of the soil; and, singular as it may seem, they even now speak of the foreign immigration that is coming in a steadily increasing flood from Europe into their country. Their Canadian neighbors have ceased to regard them as invaders, and both are unanimous in the opinion that the immigrants from Europe are the most undesirable of all that are coming into the country. The Canadian prefers an American, and the American a Canadian, to any other neighbor-unless it is one of their own people.

Everywhere through this new West one finds prosperity and plenty. In no better way is this proved than by the building of railroads. In 1881 there were only seventy-five miles of railroad in Manitoba and the West. Today 8,000 miles are completed and in service, and despite the fact that her railway. mileage per capita is already greater than that of any other country on earth, there are today 9,000 miles of new lines under contract or construction in Canada, and most of it in the West.

All along these lines new towns and cities have sprung up, and are springing up, with remarkable rapidity. And these are "colonist cities" in every sense of the words. They have little in sympathy with the eastern provinces, and even less with the States. Their builders" already regard the West as Greater Canada; the towns and cities are of their own making, and the work has aroused a new national sentiment in both Americans and Canadians, that sentiment which will ultimately give birth to a great republic on our north. Municipal ownership is triumphing to a mark-ed degree, and the liquor question is being handled as in no other place in the world. Every American and Canadian townsman and farmer in the West is interested in this liquor question, and as a result the traffic is absolutely in the control of the people. From Manitoba to the Rockies, a distance of 800 miles, there is not a single saloon! The only place where one can get liquor is at a hotel bar, and a hotel must be of a certain size, with a certain number of rooms, before a license will be issued to it.

Perhaps the most striking proof that I have encountered of the amalgamation of the Canadian and American colonists into one people, with the same interests, and to a great extent the same ambitions, is in their social intercourse. When I went into western Canada seven years ago, the national prejudice, bred and encouraged by the eastern newspapers of both countries, was very manifest, and I found Canadians preferring the English, and the Americans mingling socially almost exclusively among themselves. Such things as "American clubs," Fourth-of-July cliques, etc., were quite common, and the Canadian sons of the soil were prone to regard the "Yankees" as aliens, immeasurably less to be preferred than their English cousins. During. the course of seven years, however, this feeling has completely changed, and I have met scores of colonists, both American and Canadian, who believe that they should join in setting aside a "great day," to be celebrated in the manner of Fourth of July or the Queen's Birthday, but which should be exclusively typical of the West. In many of the towns here are now business and social clubs made up both of Canadians and Americans, and in the rural districts neighborhood organizations promote good fellowship.

I believe the strongest and the truest epitome of the situation in the Canadian West today was given to me by a Canadian settler at Moose Jaw. For five years he had lived in the States, and he said to me:

"If they say back in the States that Canadians and Americans are not the best of friends out here in the West, tell them that they are mistaken, tell them that they are fools, or-that they lie!"

This is pretty strong, but it paints the picture as it exists today—the picture of a great nation in the making, a nation which will neither crave annexation nor pride itself on alegiance to a crown, but which will, sooner or later, take a front seat among the republics of

The Canadian Manufacturers and Labor

HE closing of the labor recruiting bureau which for a year past has been maintained in London by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association at Toronto.

HE closing of the labor recruiting a hand to help Canadian manufacturers to recruit skilled labor for their factories.

Six weeks after the convention of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association at Toronto. tion, whether the closing be permanent or only temporary, has a III significance which can be realized to the full only in Canada, where the developments that preceded the organization of the bureau are well known, writes a correspondent of the London Times. The most obvious significance is that the closing of the bureau furnishes a justification of the policy as regards labor that the Laurier Government has assumed towards the Manufacturers' Association almost from the time it came into office in 1896. The Government then gave an assurance to the trade unions that it would so organize its immigration propaganda in the United Kingdom as not to overcrowd the centres of industry in Canada with skilled labor. Later on, when the recent trade "boom" in Canada became well developed, the Manufacturers' Association made repeated appeals to the Government to depart from this policy, and permit its immigration officers in the during the recent prosperous times taken the United Kingdom to act as recruiting agents advice of the association and directed its imfor Canadian factories. The Government refused to accede to this appeal on the ground that it would be unfair to use Government money, to which all Canadians contribute, to bring in skilled labor to compete with the skilled labor already settled in the country. The Manufacturers' Association was persistent in its appeals; and it organized its own recruiting bureau in London only when it was realized that there could be no hope that the Government would change its policy. The organization of the bureau was decided upon at the Winnipeg convention of the association in September, 1906; and at the next annual convention—that held in Toronto in September last-after the bureau had been in existence for eight or nine months, there were bitter complaints that the Government at Ottawa would not recognize the bureau, or authorize

its immigration agents in the United Kingdom

to work in any degree in association with its superintendent. It was then insisted that the

Government feared the trade unions; and

much emphasis was laid on what was de-

scribed as the illogical position of the Govern-

ment in regard to immigration, as demonstrat-

ed by its willingness in inducing farmers, farm laborers, and railway construction men to emigrate to Canada, while it would not raise

Canadian Manufacturers' Associa- dian Manufacturers' Association at Toronto at which it was insisted that the crying need of Canada was a large immigration of artisans and skilled factory workers, there came the end of the great expansion of trade which set in five or six years ago; and by the end of 1907 most of the large centres of industry and distribution in the Dominion were confronted with the unemployed 'problem in a more or less acute form. From Toronto there was an urgent appeal from the philanthropic and charitable organizations that the Government should restrict immigration; and from Winnipeg, Ottawa, London (Ont.), and Montreal, it was reported that hundreds of immigrants. who had come in 1907, were out of work unable to obtain work, and in many cases were suffering great privations. The Government has had to carry the blame for some of this congestion and distress; and the distress would undoubtedly have been much more general and more aggravated had the Government migration propaganda to the bringing out of a large army of artisans and factory workers. Had it done so conditions during the winter of 1907-8 would have been such as to have told adversely on immigration for years to come. The existing lack of employment in the industrial centres and the problems it has presented to the municipal authorities go far to justify the caution which for ten years past the Government has exercised in regard to the immiclosed its London bureau it seems no longer possible to assail the Dominion Government in the vehement manner in which it was attacked at the last annual convention of the association. The decline in the demand for skilled labor

would alone warrant the association in staying its hand in the matter of recruiting labor in the United Kingdom. But, apart from this, the new immigration regulations, adopted in November last by the Dominion Government, would of themselves have necessitated at least a temporary change in the labor policy of the manufacturers. A year ago, when the London bureau was organized, there were no regulations fixing the amount of money which are the course him. immigrant must bring with him to ensure his Life.

Six weeks after the convention of the Cana- were permitted to land who had not enough in them, for a week after they had reached their inland destination By the new regulations an immigrant must today be possessed of \$50. After the 1st of February and until the 1st of April he must have \$25 in hand, or the steamship company will be compelled to carry him back. During the year in which recruiting was going on at the labor bureau one of the chief difficulties was to secure for immigration into the industrial centres of Canada men and women who could prepay their ocean passage and the cost of their transportation by railway inland. It was not practicable for employers in Canada to advance these charges, because they had no guarantee that contracts made in England would be fulfilled after the immigrant had reached Canada. The new regulations added materially to this difficulty, and must have greatly reduced the number of men and women who could be sent out by the bureau so long as the regulations remained in force. Lately also the labor policy of the Manufac-turers' Association has been assailed from both sides of the House of Commons at Ottawa, so that a combination of circumstances has led to the closing of the bureau. It is announced from the association's headquarters in Toronto that the bureau is to be closed only temporarily. But it will be to the manufacturers' interest if this policy of the association is permanently abandoned, as the recruiting of labor in the United Kingdom has again served to draw public attention to the fact that, while gration of skilled labor; and now that the manufacturers are adequately protected by Manufacturers' Association has voluntarily the tariff and the bounty enactments, there can be no adequate protection for labor so long as manufacturers are permitted to import labor from any country except the United States without any restrictions. In this respect the national policy of Canada differs materially from the protective policy in the Unit-ed States, because for more than twenty years it has been unlawful for American manufacturers to import labor, and the contract labor laws have long been rigorously enforced at all the United States ports.

Briggs-I hear you've been speculating in Wall street. Griggs—There was no speculating about I was a dead sure thing from the start.—