

# The Colonist.

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AND THE TERRITORIES.

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## A SPEECH ON EMIGRATION.

In the English speaking world, especially those parts of it which own allegiance to the British Crown, a very great interest has been taken in the proceedings of the congress of Chamber of Commerce and Boards of Trade as recently held in London, England. The discussions which took place there on questions effecting the interests of the British people brought out information on these questions which will exercise a very great influence upon the future conduct towards each other of the various divisions of this great Empire. Imperial Federation is the end some have in view, others do not go so far as that, but all agree that it is desirable, nay almost necessary to the future welfare of the Empire, that some steps be taken to draw the various colonies and dependencies closer to the mother country. At this conference men from all parts of the Empire, both near and remote, were in attendance to aid in the deliberations.

One of the matters which came before the conference was that of the directions of the migratory movement of the British people, or as a question, if we may be allowed to put it in that shape, "How can we retain the Britons for Britain." To one of the speeches which was delivered at London, that of Mr. Steen, president of the Winnipeg Board of Trade, THE COLONIST would like to give editoria, prominence this month. Mr Steen spoke as follows:

"Representing as I do the great Canadian Northwest, the country in which exists the widest and greatest field for colonization to be found in all the British possessions, I feel bound to say something before this congress on this question of directing, as far as possible, the overflow of British population into British colonies, especially when I see the broad, liberal and comprehensive manner in which the resolution put forward by the London chamber of commerce grasps the subject. This question is one of greater importance, not only to the colonies, but also to the mother country, than most people are aware. (Hear, hear.) While listening to the able address of Sir Thomas Farrer on Tuesday last in opposition to trade reciprocity by discriminating tariff within the Empire, I heard him talk of the goodwill of the United States towards Great Britain, and was astounded as well as amused to hear him so talk. (Hear, hear, and Canadian cheers.) United States goodwill to Great Britain I have been anxiously searching after for nearly 20 years, and have not found enough to fill a vest pocket. (Laughter.) I resided nearly nine years in the United States before I settled down in Canada, and I can well remember the expressions of goodwill which reached my ear

from time to time, as the epithet of "foreigner" was frequently heaped at me with all the venom of a rattlesnake, and often qualified by a powerful adjective. I can remember too, when I crossed into Manitoba and saw the flag under which I was born waving over our illimitable prairies, the feeling of confidence I experienced as I reckoned up my status there as the rights I had by birth, and of which no man could deny me. (Cheers.) My experience is but the experience of thousands of Britons, who in the United States were not prepared to swear away their birthright Esau like, or change their national allegiance as they would their underclothing. (Renewed cheers.) This kind of good feeling is brought to bear with double pressure upon the poor British emigrant who seeks to better his condition within the United States. Before such an emigrant can secure an acre of a grant of land on which to settle, he has to swallow an oath of allegiance to the United States, which contains a clause in which the swearer mentions especially the renouncing of allegiance to the sovereign of the old land of his forefathers. It is a powerful test, and many like myself never could find thistle capacity to swallow the disagreeable dose. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) But the bulk of our emigrants are not in a position to make objections. They are not prepared with funds to go away in search of a home in some other country, and they soon discover that without taking the oath of allegiance to the United States, many of the pathways to success are closed against them. In short, they can remain Britons still, but they must also remain hewers of wood and drawers of water. (Hear, hear.) Surely no Briton can fail to see that almost every emigrant sent to such countries as the United States becomes a source of strength to an alien power and his loss is a weakening of the empire. It is equally plain, that every emigrant sent to one of the British colonies is an addition made to the strength and solidity of the empire; and it gives me great pleasure to see the liberal manner in which the London Chamber wishes to see treated all efforts at thus building up the colonies, and strengthening the empire. (Hear, hear.)

There is one point in connection with emigration and colonization to which I wish people in Great Britain would give more consideration than they have done in the past, I refer to the selection of different classes of emigrants for different classes of colonies. The man who might be a valuable settler in one colony, might prove a disadvantage to another colony; and few can estimate the injury which can be done by one emigrant who, through being wrongly directed, met disappointment and misfortune in the colonies, and had to return to the mother country. For instance, a host of skillful artisans would be a literal load if imported into our prairie land, when we have little or no skilled labor at which to give them employment. Nor do we want a lot of bookkeepers, clerks, and such like. The supply of such is always in excess of the demand, and there are enough of such people in Winnipeg now looking for situations, to supply the wants of a city of 150,000 population. Even the experienced English farmer, possessed of some means, is not always the successful man in our prairie land. Many of such men have strong opinions and deep prejudices on questions of agriculture, which they have gathered from experience in Great Britain, but which will not apply in a new country. Such men often have to unlearn much before they are capable of moving in the direction of success. The British farm laborer whose knowledge of agriculture is but little beyond being elementary, when assisted financially, as suggested in the resolution before us, often proves a most valuable settler with us; and I want it to be clearly understood that poverty is no crime in our great prairie land, and those who come there with very limited resources often prove our most successful citizens. One thing is imperative, however, and that is work. (Cheers.) One class above all others we have no use for in the North-west, namely, the fast young gentle-

man, sent out to be where he will not disgrace his friends, and to live in the North-west upon romances from home. That individual is utterly useless to us. With aid to the poorer emigrants, as indicated in the resolution, and with care in the classification of settlers for different colonies, this movement to direct British surplus population into the colonies cannot fail to prove a power in building up the empire. (Cheers)."

## EXPORT BUTTER AT THE WINNIPEG INDUSTRIAL.

The special prize for butter in packages suitable for export called out an interesting show at the late Provincial Exhibition. It is not generally known to the public that Manitoba butter makers are making an effort to secure a market to the west among the countries and islands whose shores are washed by the Pacific ocean, but the evident care and expense to which they have gone deserves both recognition and encouragement. For years butter has been sent from France and Denmark to Brazil, the West Indies, India, China, Japan, the Sandwich Islands, and such places, which has been put up in air tight packages and prepared in every way to withstand the climates through which it has passed on the long voyages.

Now that there is good steamboat service on the Pacific from our own Canadian ports it is natural for our province to attempt some rivalry and to secure part of this great and growing trade, for we are terribly handicapped against exporting to the British Isles. From Montreal the best Eastern creamery is shipped to Liverpool, Bristol and Glasgow, and we stand, not only fifteen hundred miles of land behind our Quebec and Ontario competitors, in the race for the old country trade, but even on arrival our produce meets with Danish and French manufactures which have only a narrow strip of sea to cross to reach London itself. It seems only reasonable then that our surplus for export should be directed to the west where we are at no disadvantage. The opening of trade must necessarily be slow, partly because our capacity at present is limited and partly because a new article is always cautiously looked on by the purchaser; still we have already made trial shipments and in every instance the result of the transaction has been successful. Last year butter was shipped from Winnipeg via San Francisco to the Gilbert and Marshall Islands in the Polynesia lying to the north-east of the Australian continent and evidently stood the voyage well for an enquiry has come back for the same butter again this year. This journey is 7,000 miles long, and in passage the equator has to be passed. The butter was put up in the exact shape in which Mr. LaBorde exhibited his first prize exhibit last week and by him.

The excellence of this package over the others that were shown is obvious. Its appearance is very smart and handsome, its size small enough to supply only one meal at a fair sized table, so that no butter would have to be held over in an open package in a hot climate, and again, while it is perfectly air-tight from the outside it also contains no air whatever within. There was no other package there for which as much could be said, although both Mr. Scott of Shoal Lake (2nd prize) and Mr. Wm. Scott of St.