

CANADA SEEKS A NEW HOME FOR HER CHILDREN.

It was a momentous year for Canada when the Wolseley Expedition of British and Canadian troops forced its way in 1870 through the trackless rockland of thirteen hundred miles to the flowery prairies of the west. Before the force started it was known that there would be no blood shed, for the Riel rising, brought on by misunderstanding and governmental maladministration had largely subsided, but the expedition meant the occupation of a good land by a determined people. It gave confidence to a young nation on the outlook for homes for its children. Their land had been too strait for the growing Canadian families. By tens, if not hundreds, of thousands they had been drifting to the open lands of the Western United States. Now, many of the young Canadian soldiers, on receiving their discharge, remained in the country and laid the foundations of Winnipeg. They brought kindred spirits after them, they were followed by wives, sisters and daughters and made strong settlements of intelligent, energetic and moral people. Winnipeg was for many years a distributing point for the new settlements. The new communities were loyal. On their journey westward they had passed in thousands through the United States—a foreign country—had resisted all blandishments and inducements to remain by the way, had journeyed keeping their eye on the North Star. Thus grew Manitoba. The people, like the colonizing party of the old patriarch of Ur of the Chaldees, took with them to their western homes their traditions, their courage and their faith. The weak, the half-hearted and the extremely poor could not go, for the journey was long and expensive, the stories of the dangers of the new lands, its cold, its wolves, its plagues of locusts, and its unfriendliness were alarming. It was four hundred miles from a railway, and an impassable barrier of Laurentian rocks prevented, it was declared, its ever being connected directly with Canada. It is said that an eloquent Canadian orator spoke then of Manitoba as "A Hyperborean Land, fit neither for man nor beast." But Hudson's Bay Company vaticinations, United States hostility, the long and wearisome journey, the spectre of ice and snow, and the fear of ostracism and banishment proved insufficient to restrain the movement to what was a good land, a land of sunlight, a land of good health, a land of fertility, a land of wonderful resources, and a land of great opportunities.

Enough of time has now elapsed to show it to be a land of stalwart young men, of comely daughters, of sturdy boys and girls—a land to produce the farmer, the athlete and the soldier—a land of cheerful homes, of churches and of schools.