

any longer. Homestead entries thereon can now be secured free, upon application by any one who has not obtained a homestead entry already, or they can be purchased at a low figure subject to homestead conditions. So, too, the lands hitherto reserved for general entry in the Mennonite Reserves are now open for entry to any person, subject to the conditions in force regarding their settlement by the Mennonites.

Many other amendments have been made, all of which tend to assist the settler in every possible way, without doing away with the required residence in order to entitle a man to a free homestead.

The Increases in Immigration.

Notable indeed has been the improvement in the tide of immigration into Canada during the past season. According to the latest returns, the Winnipeg office of the Immigration Department records the arrival of 25,000 immigrants up to the end of September, besides which a large number came in from the Northern States at points west of Winnipeg. The resident commissioner at Winnipeg estimates these latter at 5,000, at least another 5,000 were expected during the last three months of the year, making a total of 35,000 for the twelve months. The total immigration for the first nine months of last year was 8,439, and for the same period of 1896 about 8,000. As to the nationalities of the immigrants, without particularizing and sub-dividing too minutely, it may be stated that about 28 per cent. were from the British Isles, a similar portion from the United States, about 12 1-2 per cent. from France, Germany and Belgium; 25 per cent. from Gallia and other points in southeastern and eastern Europe and the remainder scattered.

In this connection a glance at the Imperial emigration statistics will be interesting and instructive. Up to October 31st there were 124,882 emigrants of British origin registered as leaving the old country, as against 131,828 for the same period of 1897. This total is divided as follows:—

Destination.	1897.	1898.
United States.....	78,639	72,749
British North America.....	15,016	16,781
Australasia.....	10,113	9,036
South Africa.....	18,207	16,820
All other places.....	9,853	9,496

From these figures it will be seen that while the grand total of British emigrants has decreased this year and

the numbers going to the United States Australasia, South Africa and "all other places" are less, the number coming to British North America, which is practically Canada, has increased more than ten per cent. This change in favor of the Dominion may be reasonably credited in a large measure to the changes made in the immigration policy of the Government and the increased energy thrown into this Department, and yet, curiously enough, it has all occurred under a Minister who has been more systematically abused than any other Minister in Canada in a long period, and under a policy which has been just as persistently misrepresented.

The contrast in the character of our immigrants and those of the States is becoming more marked every year. The great mass of immigrants to the United States are no longer of the farming classes. Of the 239,832 immigrants to the States last year 59,431 were Italians, while other inland parts of southern Europe sent large numbers. They are largely day laborers with no ambition to anchor themselves to the soil, and competent judges claim that they are no longer a strength but a weakness to the States.

The Quebec Conference.

Another event which will make the year 1898 historical and which, moreover, affords further proof of the remarkable development of Imperial sentiment, not only in Canada, but in the old country, was the meeting of the International High Commission in Quebec. This Convention was brought about through the earnest efforts of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who for many years, whether in opposition or in power, has consistently and unrelentingly labored, both with the Imperial authorities and with the Canadian people, to bring about a better understanding between the Empire and the Republic. The Premier was warmly seconded by his Government, and the remarkable change of feeling which took place in the early summer in the United States towards the Empire, rendered the consummation of his conciliatory policy somewhat more probable. The Commission was composed of Lord Herschell, who had twice filled the most important office of Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, and who, when the Commission was organized, was unanimously selected as chairman, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir Richard Cartwright, Sir Louis Davies and Mr. John Charlton; these five with Sir James