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## Canadian Illustrated News.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 1874.

### EMIGRATION TO CANADA.

Since the commencement of the agricultural labourers' lock-out, and the consequent increase in the tide of emigration to the United States and the colonies, the English journals have been more than usually bitter upon the emigration question. It would seem, if one were to take their utterances as gospel, that the man who seeks to better his condition by removing to a new world, where all the chances of success are in his favour, is guilty of a heinous crime. Such a one, we are given to understand, is not only a victim to unreasonable discontent; he displays a glaring want of patriotism towards a country that never yielded him anything but hardships, and gross ingratitude to employers who have always done their best to keep him down. The leader of the new anti emigration movement is, of course, the *Times*. And the particular victim singled out as a mark for the bolts of the Thunderer is, as was only to be expected, the Dominion of Canada. So little is known in England of this country, as compared with the other colonies, that it is a perfectly safe game for the *Times* to vent its displeasure upon Canada, and air its ignorance on subjects connected therewith. Naturally we in the Dominion are fully aware that the attacks in the *Times* are doing considerable injury to the cause of Canadian emigration. Nor are the United States emigration agents by any means blind to the fact. No doubt they fully appreciate the patriotism displayed by the *Times* in warning intending emigrants against an English colony, and they are not slow in using the expressions of the *Times* to induce such people to cast off their allegiance and throw in their lot with the United States.

The latest tirade in which the *Times* indulges in depreciation of Canada as a field for emigration comes to us in the form of a letter which appears over the signature, "A Bohemian." And a remarkable letter it is in its way. An old proverb tells us that we must go abroad to get news of home. Certainly "A Bohemian's" communication contains much that will be news to Canadians, and to all those who are in the least degree acquainted with Canadian affairs. We do not suppose that the editor of the *Times* took the trouble to ascertain if his correspondent's information was correct. This would be too much to expect. The fact is, that journal has so frequently been caught tripping in laying down the law concerning Canada that its policy now appears to be to endeavour to show that after all the country is such a miserable place that it is really not worth while to know anything at all about it. A very comfortable theory indeed, but hardly one which does credit to the leading journal of Europe.

But to return to "A Bohemian's" veracious statements. He says:—

"I found that manual labour was the only thing that could succeed in Canada, and this would never bring wealth without money in the first instance to back it; that, though the wages given at harvest-time were more than double those given to our agricultural labourers in England, yet the employment was only open half the year or less; and that there was quite as much suffering and want in this colony as there was in the mother country; indeed, half the agricultural labourers who emigrate to Canada would give all they possess to return again. A few, but a very few indeed, have succeeded in getting land and flocks and herds of their own; but the vast majority of Canadian emigrants are merely hewers of wood and drawers of water. The men who are prosperous are blacksmiths, carpenters, and a few other skilled mechanics, together with healthy agriculturists, who have taken with them means enough to exist for twelve months or more without realising anything; in this time they can clear plots of land which will produce sufficient for the consumption of a family."

With all due respect for the writer's, no doubt superior, knowledge of Canada and Canadians, we beg most emphatically to deny the truth of his assertions in the paragraph we have quoted. Manual labour is not the only thing that can succeed in Canada. And it has been

known to succeed, and that in not a few isolated cases, without money in the first instance to back it. There is by no means "quite as much suffering and want in this colony as there is in the mother country." And we have yet to meet the agricultural labourers who would give half they possess to return again. It is very evident that "A Bohemian" is unacquainted with the biographies of our great public men. Let him read these and he will find that scores, hundreds of them have reached the top of the ladder who began the ascent without a copper in their pockets. Take the wealthiest men in our cities, the most prosperous farmers in the country—what were they when they began life? They did not come into the world with silver spoons in their mouths. They earned all they are worth by hard, honest labour, such as "A Bohemian" and pessimists of his class would shrink from in dismay. As to the statement that "the vast majority of Canadian emigrants are merely hewers of wood and drawers of water," it is so patently absurd to all who know the truth as to need no contradiction whatever. But even were such the case, we should like to ask "A Bohemian" what is the condition of the agricultural labourer in England? By all accounts he is something even lower than a mere hewer of wood and drawer of water.

Again, this admirably-informed writer tells his readers that "all who emigrate to America or British Colonies must expect to bear great hardships. They have to contend against the wily selfishness of those around them; they find very little sympathy in trouble or distress, and there is no provision for them if they fall into helpless poverty." This explains the tone of "A Bohemian's" letter. Like a very Bohemian he appears to labour under a constitutional distaste for hard work. According to his theory Canadians and Canadian emigrants who have made a position here by their own efforts should now turn to and prepare the way for new comers. We should set to work to clear the land, put in the seed, build farm-houses and stock them, and let a lot of lazy vagabonds come over to enjoy the fruits of our labours. This, however, is precisely the class we in this country wish to avoid. We want men who are willing and able to face their fair share of hardship. Such may rest assured that the end will crown their labour, and that in the meantime they will have nothing to fear from "the wily selfishness of those around them," and the other imaginary ills that "A Bohemian" conjures up to deter the faint-hearted from seeking to better their condition in a new, and, to them, unknown world. They may depend upon it that they will meet with far more assistance, far more sympathy, and far more success in this country than they ever dreamt of in the old.

We stated at the outset that the effect of the persistent endeavours of the *Times* to paint Canada in the most sombre of colours could only be to place the game in the hands of the United States emigration agents. The *Times* was, if we remember right, exceedingly indignant at the failure of a certain South American emigration scheme which turned out to be a complete fraud, owing to the misrepresentations of the agents. In the following extract from a letter written by a Roman Catholic priest in New York to a *confrère* in Ireland, we have a pretty *exposé* of the kind of fraud to which the *Times* indirectly lends itself:—

"I entreat you to warn the people of your parish against attempting at the present time to emigrate to this country. At the present moment there are in this city alone thousands and thousands of able-bodied men standing idle and actually starving; nor can they get a stroke of work to do. What is true of New York is true of every large city all over the Union. Public works have been suspended; there are no roads in construction at the present time anywhere; no canals, nothing which can give employment to large gangs of labourers, owing to the extravagant freights charged by the railway monopolists. For grain and farm produce farmers raise only as much as suffice for domestic consumption, and, not being able to afford it, employ no hands. Hence provisions are dear in this city—everything at the present moment is going to the dogs in this country—the result of wild extravagance begun during the war—the result of failures, of want of confidence in any speculation or speculators, and the result, too, of the strikes which labour unions and trade unions have so frequently made during the past three years. Where five years ago there used to be any amount of building and digging nothing is now done. Everything is at a standstill. For one situation, or for the work of one man, there are thousands of applicants, and this is true not only with regard to male labourers, but also with regard to female. Female servants who have never been out of employment before are now looking in vain for places. The offices are filled with applicants and no chance of hire. How long this state of things may last I cannot tell, but I deem that it is the beginning of evils, and that this country is likely to undergo a phase of misery the like of which no pen can tell. Warn the people, and let them know the truth. There are thousands this moment in this city who, had they means, would gladly return to Ireland. These men are willing to work, but no work can be had, for there is no work in operation. If they still persist in leaving, let them try Canada rather than the States, for if they come here they will only add to the aggregate misery which hews down the poor at present—no work! no work! no work! There is as much beggary to-day in New York as in any city in Ireland; as much destitution; and they who are reduced to this state are in general emigrants."

After all is said and done the one incontrovertible fact remains, that, notwithstanding the croakings of "A Bohemian" and his tribe, immigrants will come to Canada, and, once settled, are well content to stay. A better argument in favour of the Dominion as a field for emigration does not exist. Were the country and the people such as the writer in the *Times* describes them, it would speedily become known, and the result would be a rapid falling-off in the tide of emigration. As it is, our emigration statistics show a constantly-increasing influx, while in the States immigration is fast falling off, and in some districts the people are even removing to Canada. This surely should be a sufficient answer to the forebodings of the prophets of the "Bohemian" stripe, and sufficient encouragement to those who are hesitating, half-willing, half-afraid to try their fortune in the Dominion.

The discussions provoked by the Draft Reciprocity Treaty have brought the lumbering interest of the country into the foreground, and the convention of lumbermen recently held in Ottawa has thrown light upon the importance of this leading branch of trade. From papers read at that Convention, we learn that the suicidal process of denudation has stripped the whole of the New England States of their forests, with the single exception of Maine, and even there, there is the best authority for stating that five hundred millions of feet, inch measure, or about a third of one year's production of Canada, would exhaust every foot of timber in that State. Of the Middle States, Pennsylvania is the only one which has retained something of its woods; but there also three years' stocking, at five hundred millions per year, would entirely exhaust the pine timber now standing. In the North and North-West, Michigan stands at the head of the pine-producing States, its area being three and a half millions of acres. But as from two hundred and fifty to three hundred thousand acres are stripped annually, the supply of this State will be entirely used up in twelve or fourteen years. Wisconsin and Minnesota have together about as much pine timber as Michigan, but they, too, are rapidly stripping their territory, while the cost of transportation effectually excludes them from competition with Canada in the Eastern markets. Canada remains in undisputed possession of the lumber supply of this continent, and it only remains with her to husband her resources and make provident use of her opportunities. A lesson must be learned from past experiences. The section drained by the streams which empty into Lake Erie had pine timber enough on it to pay the whole debt of the Dominion, but it has been ruthlessly wasted, and now nothing is left. The Muskoka country, the Ottawa valley, and the St. Maurice district, are still the great nurseries of Canadian forests. The Ottawa and St. Maurice, with their tributaries, are said to comprise nine-tenths of the pine timber in the Dominion of Canada this side the Rocky Mountains, and if properly used, will in a few years possess a value, standing in the forest, for the American market, equal to what the same description of timber would fetch if standing in the neighbourhood of London, Liverpool, or Glasgow.

The first reading of Beecher's statement before the Investigating Committee leaves a decidedly favourable impression. There is a tone of fervency pervading it which at once enlists the heart. The charges of black-mailing against Tilton rouse indignation and cause the main issue to be lost from sight, while the bold defiance of the orator has the ring of thorough conscious innocence. A critical examination of the document, however, leaves the mind colder. It is not precisely that one would like to ask Beecher for his sworn word, but there is a distinct feeling that the declaration would be stronger if fortified by an oath. Then the countercharges of black-mailing wear a curious air of unreality. It is hard to believe that a man would, at different times, give another as much as \$7,000, even mortgaging his house therefor, and demanding no legal acknowledgment of the same, unless he had some distinct personal object to further thereby. The world views such charity and philanthropy with suspicion, and Mr. Beecher who, at his time of life and with his professional experience, knows the world, ought to understand that this part of his evidence will have to be buttressed by other testimony. But Beecher has committed another error in attacking Moulton. That gentleman professes to have shielded Beecher thus far. Even before the committee he refused to produce the longer of two documents which contained new facts bearing on the case. Now that Beecher has involved him in his charges against Tilton, Moulton may deem himself obliged, in self-defence, to publish to the world all the evidence in his possession. Indeed, the general feeling is that until he does so, we cannot be said to have the last word of the mystery which enshrouds this unfortunate case.