

In the Interests of Manitoba.

The following report from the *Daily Telegraph* of the proceedings at a meeting held in Sheffield, England, on January 28th, at which Mr. McMillan spoke will prove interesting:

A lecture on "The Golden Fields of Western Canada; their resources and prospects," was given in the Wostenholm hall, last night, by Mr. A. J. McMillan, of Liverpool, one of the British agents for the Manitoba Government. The chair was occupied by Colonel Howard Vincent, C. B., M. P., who was supported on the platform by the Mayor (Ald. Camble), Mr. J. N. Coombe, Mr. C. F. Bennett, Mr. T. Clark and others. There was a large attendance, the hall being crowded.

The chairman, in commencing the proceedings, said that the reason he had taken the chair that evening was because the other day he was through the district which the lecturer was that evening going to deal with. Mr. McMillan was representing in England the Provincial Government of Manitoba; he had been sent here in order to furnish the necessary information to intending emigrants. None of them were desirous that anybody should leave this country who was happy and comfortable; but there was a vast stream of emigrants always going from the country, and he and others were extremely anxious to get those people, as far as possible, to go to the great lands over the sea which are under the British flag rather than to foreign countries. In the ten years from 1881 to 1890 inclusive, no less than 2,600,000 persons of British origin left the United Kingdom. Of these 297,000 went to Canada, 370,000 went to Australasia, and 1,800,000 to the United States. The latter went to a foreign country, had to take up a foreign nationality disavowing any further allegiance to our Queen. If it was found that the same opportunity of progress existed in the far-off lands of Great Britain as in the United States many of these people would still remain under the British flag. (Hear, hear.) He was desirous that this should be done, because it was ascertained beyond dispute that emigrants who went to the British possessions were better customers for British goods—for Sheffield goods—than if they went to a foreign country. (Applause.) This could be proved by figures. Canada and Newfoundland bought British products at the rate of £1 8s 9d per head; the West Indies at the rate of £2 11s 5d per head; South Africa at the rate of £4 11s 9d per head; India and the Eastern Possessions (numbering as they knew upwards of 230,000,000 subjects), at the rate of £6 per head. How different were these figures compared with the figures referring to the United States. The latter only took British products at the rate of 10s 3d per head; France, 8s 8d per head; Germany, 8s 3d per head; Russia, 1s 3d per head; and Austria, 8d per head. He would like to tell them that he and Mrs. Vincent went through a sea of ripe golden corn seventy miles long by fifty miles wide. From this they would see what enormous attractions and capabilities were possessed by Canada for supplying the mother country with food. (Cheers.) Canada was only partially peopled, and wanted developing. The official report stated that in the Mackenzie basin there were no less than 316,000 square miles of land suitable for cultivation, and hundreds and hundreds of miles of land which,

when ploughed, would produce the finest Manitoban wheat. All that was wanted was that Great Britain would send capital for the development of this land and people to work it. (Cheers.) In conclusion the chairman stated that he had received letters, regretting their inability to attend, from Sir William Leng and Mr. R. E. Leader.

Mr. McMillan said that no district had played so great a part in the development of Canada as had Manitoba. Twenty years ago this province was comparatively unknown, but to-day it was advancing by leaps and bounds. It had a population of something like 170,000, and though 12 years ago there were no railways within its borders, to day it had 1,500 miles within the province. There were some 600 schools in the country, education was free, and an eighteenth of all the land in the country was set aside for the endowment of educational institutions. (Hear, hear.) Agriculture was the principal industry, though there were some manufactures. So long, however, as England had Western Canada to rely upon for wheat there need be no fear for the future. He hoped the day was not far distant when England would get a great deal of bread and meat supplies from that part of the world. To accomplish this end the government of Manitoba and other western provinces required the surplus men and women of this land. To every man over 18 year of age a free gift of 160 acres of land, all ready for the plough, was made. The very best land in the province could be purchased at £1 per acre, ten years being allowed for payment. Manitoba wheat commanded a higher price in British markets than any other. Laborers were in great demand, and received £4 to £5 per month, with board and lodging. For women with any knowledge of domestic work there was a splendid opening; situations were plentiful, and, what was more, husbands awaited them also. (Laughter and cheers.) The lecturer proceeded to describe the advances made by Winnipeg, Brandon and other places. In conclusion he invited in all confidence, British men and women to devote more attention to colonial matters. It was important that they should do so from a commercial standpoint, and it was imperative from a national standpoint. (Cheers.)

The remarks of Mr. McMillan were illustrated by numerous beautiful views thrown on a screen by the aid of a powerful lantern.

At the conclusion of the lecture a vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. McMillan and to the chairman.

Alberta in England.

Rev. John Maclean, who is in England in the interests of emigration to Assiniboia, gave the following to an English newspaper in a recent letter:

"Now let me say something about Alberta. Its development during the past decade has been unequalled probably in the history of the whole Canadian Northwest. I went there in 1880, and that was long before there were any cattle ranches in the country. There were a few hundred cattle at Morley, near the Stoney Indians' reserve, and a few at High River. Late in the autumn of 1881 Senator Cochrane, Captain Winder, and others gave public sup-

port to the adoption of the leasing system. A meeting was held at Bismarck, in Dakota, and a kind of company organized to secure leases from the Government. That was the beginning of the cattle-raising industry of Alberta. Now Southern Alberta may be called the great cattle raising district of Canada, and almost of all North America. Its adaptability to the industry arises from two things. There is first an abundance of natural nutritious grasses. The bunch, or buffalo grass, grows in tufts, and cures itself like the best English hay. It does not freeze and dry up in winter, and therefore yields a food for cattle superior to the best cured hay. You cannot compare your ordinary English hay to it; at least, the hay I have seen going through your streets seems, for the most part, very poor stuff. Then, in the second place, we have the Chinook winds in Alberta. In the winter time when the snow falls it does not pack, and when these winds blow the snow is carried off the prairie and thrown into the coulees and river valleys, leaving the grass clear. Cattle cannot paw the snow like horses can, and if the snow were to pack, as it does in many parts of North America, the cattle could not thrive in the open air in the winter months as they do with us. Besides this, these warm Chinook winds come through the mountains and melt the snow, leaving the prairie uncovered and the coulees supplied with water.

Mr. John Kean, now of Lethbridge, formerly of the Mountain Mill, Pincher Creek, found no fewer than 100 different varieties of prairie grasses within an area of 109 square yards. It was the abundance of these prairie grasses, and especially the abundance of the short bunch grass, that led the district to be called the Buffalo Country—a name you will still see on old maps, and now that the buffaloes have disappeared cattle have taken their place. Many regions are, however, well adapted to mixed farming, and the whole district will in time be the home of many thousands of thriving general farmers."

A Second St. Clair Tunnel.

The St. Clair Tunnel Company has purchased considerable property immediately adjacent to the site of the present international tunnel at Sarnia, and, it is said, will begin operations for the construction of another tunnel within sixty days. The contemplated underground passage will be similar to the present one without the deep excavations at either of the approaches. It is plainly evident that the boring can be more rapidly accomplished and with less expenditure of money than has marked their previous undertaking. The new tunnel will be used for the westward traffic, while the old will be utilized for eastward business. It is anticipated that the new passage will be completed inside of twelve months. The new tunnel will be located 150 feet north of the present one.

The Esquimaux & Nanaimo Railway Co. is building a new steamer to ply between Victoria and Comox. She is 180 feet keel and 30 feet beam and will be finished about the 1st of April. Her machinery was built at the Albion Iron works.