

British Immigration to Canada

By W. D. SCOTT, Superintendent of Immigration

CANADA is a British colony guided by British ideals and peopled very largely by those of British extraction; it follows as a consequence that in any movement towards the peopling of her vast areas her natural desire would be to acquire the necessary settlers from British sources. In common with other new countries the Dominion has learned from experience that the best and most lasting results are derived from a carefully selected population, and while to one not cognisant of the difficulties attending the proper selection of immigrants, this might seem an easy task, still in practice it has proved to be a work attended with many difficulties.

That the average Canadian is fairminded, and more than that broad-minded, is I believe admitted by all who have visited our shores and enjoyed the opportunity of studying our people. He welcomes to his shores everyone, British or foreigner, who demonstrates his ability to meet Canadian conditions. He holds no grudge against any well-intentioned or energetic immigrant, whatever his race or creed, but against the ne'er-do-well of all races he has an antipathy; the interests of his country demand that much and for the feeling he should be applauded, not condemned. No country is entirely peopled with desirable persons and the British Isles in common with others has her quota of undesirables; it therefore follows that an immigrant need not be acceptable simply because he hails from the mother land. His past record may be such as to make him an unwelcome guest in any country, or his physical or temperamental qualifications may render him absolutely unfitted for a successful career under the new conditions with which he is confronted. If, however, he suffers from none of these disabilities, but is willing to learn and anxious to succeed, Canada offers to him an opportunity afforded by no other country and a hearty welcome amongst people of his own blood and under his own flag.

Immigration from the British Isles may be divided into two large classes, those who come of their own volition and at their own expense, and those who are sent or assisted by charitable organisations. In so far as the latter class is concerned, it would be well for the societies engaged in the work, to remember that adaptability is the first essential requisite which all settlers in a new land must possess. Strength should not be wanting, good health is a necessary qualification, education is an advantage, but unless the immigrant sees fit to attempt at least to adapt himself to his altered surroundings nothing but failure awaits him. Of those new settlers whose efforts have met with most success adaptability has been the marked characteristic, while those who have proven failures have evinced a desire to criticise Canadian methods and enlarge upon the advantages of the "home customs." The latter class have not displayed eagerness to accustom themselves to the ways and means which years of experience have shown to be best suited to this country.

By those who come at their own expense adaptability is likewise necessary, and while it may be, in fact almost certainly is, possessed in a greater degree by them than by those assisted, still it is rather to their self-reliance displayed in starting without a helping hand to hew out for themselves a career in a new land, that their success in greater numbers proportionately is due. It would not be reasonable to expect the same reliance in one who through his fault or misfortune has been worsted in the struggle for existence as from him who has succeeded in remaining self-sustaining, yet it is considered wise to point out this condition as it appears to the Canadian mind.

In all classes who come to Canada there are some who expect to find a land flowing with milk and honey, where gold may be picked up in the street without toil, and while such undergo a disillusionment as rapid as it is disagreeable, still all find work plentiful, the remuneration reasonable and if the employee works hard the employer does likewise.

Taken at random from amongst the thousands of letters received by the Immigration Department from employers of British immigrants, I quote the following:

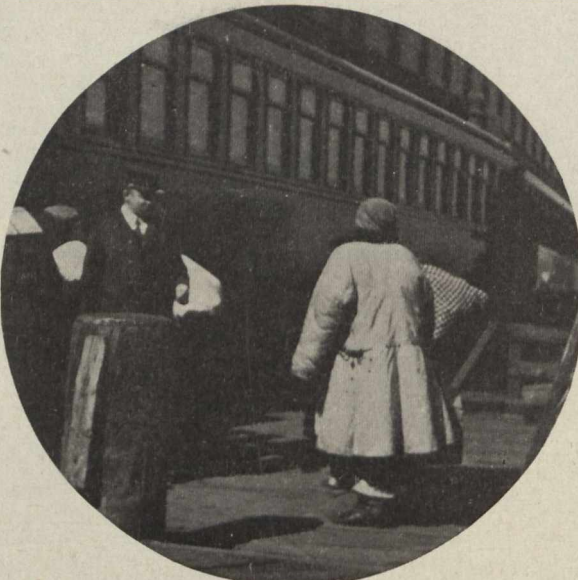
"— is with me at \$15 per month and lodging. He appears to be good-natured, honest, willing to learn the work he is unaccustomed to, and that is all that is necessary."

"— is in my employ and is a good man. Although

inexperienced he is giving satisfaction in every way. His wages at present are \$160.00 per year."

"I find — a good man. He is inexperienced but willing to learn. Will pay him \$12 to \$15 per month according to how he improves."

"I have hired — for \$15 a month. Although green at our way of farming, because the work is dif-



Central Europe in Canada.

ferent here from the Old Country, he is learning fast and will soon be as good as our own Canadian boys."

"— hired with me for six months but left as soon as the busy season opened. He was an absolute failure, lazy, untruthful, and not even willing to try and follow instructions. Men of his class injure the chances of his countrymen who are good workers."

"I am pleased to state that — is a thoroughly experienced farm hand understanding fully the care of stocks and the handling of horses, besides he is an expert ploughman, a vocation which he informs me that farm hands from his locality in the Old Country are all

proficient at. I wish we could secure many more of — class from the old land. I am paying him \$320 for the year with board, lodging and washing, and he is well worth it."

The following two extracts from letters from British immigrants are interesting and fairly representative of hundreds of letters received by the Department:

"I am now writing to thank you for getting me my situation last March. I am getting along fine. I got \$15 a month to start with and after two months this was raised to \$20. I like the country fine and would not want to go back home."

"I must apologise for not writing to you before to thank you. This is a splendid place and both Mr. and Mrs. — are very good to me. A fellow gets along well in this country if he gets a move on and keeps his eyes open."

With her immense untilled areas it is to the agriculturist that Canada most appeals, and it is likewise to obtain the agriculturist that Canada is putting forth her efforts. With, roughly speaking, only 7 per cent. of the population of the British Isles following agricultural pursuits, it is very gratifying for Canada to note that of the 430,900 British who settled in Canada from July 1st, 1904, to March 1st, 1910, no less a number than 114,438 or 27 per cent., declared their intention of following farming in their new homes.

Of one other class Canada stands in great need—I refer to female domestic servants, and while in the past six years 32,000 have come from the British Isles alone, without taking into account the large numbers from Continental European countries, the demand is yearly growing greater. In every village, town and city from the Atlantic to the Pacific the cry goes up for this class of help and 30,000 could yearly be placed without materially lessening the demand. One reason for this is that many who come to Canada to engage in domestic service are married within a year or so of their arrival, set up their own homes and in turn join the ranks of those desiring assistance for their household duties.

To the British immigrant able and willing to work, who despairing of finding an opportunity of bettering his condition in the old land, has decided to test his destiny in countries beyond the seas, who relying on the inborn tenacity which has so often enabled the British to surmount apparently insurmountable difficulties and on his virile manhood to achieve for himself success in the land which has proved a Godsend to so many of his countrymen, Canada offers a welcome as hearty as it is sincere.

The Farms of Saskatchewan

Panorama of Progress in the Big Wheat Province

By HON. W. R. MOTHERWELL

THE first decade of the real development of the Province of Saskatchewan has just drawn to a close and we may be said with its completion to have passed the first milestone in the agricultural progress of the province. During that decade the grain production of Saskatchewan as measured in terms of bushels increased thirty-fold in the case of wheat and sixty-fold in the case of oats, the exact figures of production being 3,400,000 bushels of wheat in 1900 and 90,200,000 bushels in 1909, 1,600,000 bushels of oats in 1900 and 105,400,000 bushels in 1909.

This is a rate of agricultural development which, we believe, it would be hard to duplicate in the annals of the civilised world, yet there is nothing whatever to prevent this record from being repeated or even surpassed during the second decade of our development. The land is here, fertility is abundant in it, and the markets of the world are calling for wheat. All that we need is a sufficient number of incoming settlers of the right kind. Corresponding to the increase in quantity produced, there has been an increase in the price on the farm of the leading agricultural products of Saskatchewan. This increase has been from about sixty cents per bushel for the highest grade of wheat ten years ago to about ninety cents during the year 1909. These are the prices after the freight charges and other costs of marketing have been deducted.

Another feature of the development of agriculture in this province during the past decade has been the marked improvement effected in the conditions under which grain crops are marketed. A considerable amount of competition has been infused into the grain trade. Freight rates have been reduced, grading methods have been improved,

transportation facilities have been extended, and in a number of ways the interests of the large body of individual producers have been protected and conserved.

Coincident with the increase in production, enhanced prices, and improved marketing facilities in the grain trade, has been a development of certain branches of the live stock industry. While the rapid extension of farming and of the settled area has gradually lessened, to some extent, the importance of ranching, which formerly constituted the only system of agriculture in the province, there has been an ever increasing interest taken by farmers in some of the forms of live stock production that the ranchers are gradually being forced to abandon. A large stretch of park-like land extending in a northwesterly direction across the province and embracing a strip of territory several hundred miles in width has been found to be admirably adapted to the pursuit of what we know here as "mixed" farming, but what to the British agriculturist would appear as only normal farming. Thus, while the wheat-raising activities of the southern, central, and western portions of Saskatchewan are making the province famous, the industries of dairying and cattle raising are being fostered by the government in the northern and eastern portions of the southern half of the province. The settlers who have taken up land within this area are mainly those to whom this kind of farming is more attractive than exclusive wheat-growing. Co-operative creameries fostered and supervised by the Department of Agriculture are being operated successfully within this belt of park

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