

"For Manitoba and Canada not so good as for Africa or the States. Africa is the point, apparently, just at present. People in England have a rooted idea which they gather from pictures and Christmas cards and other trifles that Canada is an invariably cold country. I think our field for immigration lies to the south of us. Instead of spending money in bringing over a few people from England it would be vastly better to bring in from the States people who understand our climate, have not far to come, and can, if satisfied, bring over numbers of their friends in a very short time. In the States we have the numbers to work on, with whom it would only be a question of moving a little further north to better their condition."

The point we wish to refer to more particularly is that regarding immigration from the United States. Here is a long neglected field which Canada is only beginning to realize the value of. Formerly no effort was made to attract immigration from the States, while that country in past years has had a considerable attraction for Canadians of a roving disposition. During the last year or two, however, some attention has been given to the States with very satisfactory results, for a beginning. While there has been a great decrease in immigration from Great Britain this year, there has been a corresponding increase from the United States. Only a start, however, has been made. The field to the south is an immense one, and if it is properly handled we should in a few years have a vast annual influx of good immigrants. Among a population of over sixty millions, many of whom are ready to move if it can be shown that it is to their advantage to do so, there is ample room for effective work. This is a kind of annexation which would be more pleasing to Canadians than the other views of annexation sometimes talked of. We have no fear but that immigrants from the republic would speedily become useful and loyal citizens of the Dominion. The possibility that they would in time create a diversion in favor of a change in our political status, need not be taken into serious consideration. Better acquaintance with our system of government, would educate them to appreciate its advantages and its superiority over the system under which they had formerly lived, and they would soon become Canadianized in spirit and sentiment.

This looking to the south for population does not necessarily mean the disparagement of British immigration. As Mr. Austin points out, however, it is a difficult and expensive undertaking to secure British immigrants, while on the other hand we have a vast field, heretofore neglected, right at our door. Moreover, the people to the south would have fewer prejudices to overcome, as regards notions of climate, etc., than appears to prevail in Great Britain. We have certainly received some splendid settlers from Great Britain, but it is difficult to secure the class we want, namely; agricultural settlers. Too many of those who have come from England have not been of the class best suited to this country. In the United States it would be easier to make it understood what class of people would be suitable for this country, as the people generally have a better idea as to what is required in a new agricultural country. Their knowledge of farming is such as is also more suitable to this country.

The fact that there is a vast population in the United States ready to move, was indicated by the great rush to occupy the Oklahoma territory, which was thrown open for settlement last year. This territory was filled up at once with people who were anxious to take up land. Only this week a despatch from Washington stated that there were about a quarter of a million to 300,000 white settlers illegally located in Indian territory, principally agricultural settlers. The question which is disturbing the Washington authorities is what to do with these people. They have no right in the Indian territory, and cannot become owners of the land which they are working, and which they have illegally taken possession of. Their property and improvements are liable to confiscation at any time, and they cannot organize municipal government, schools, or enjoy any privileges of citizenship.

The fact is, the public domain in the United States has become exhausted, or at least that portion of it which is fit for settlement. There are some arid and desert lands in the west which are totally unfit for settlement, but these cannot be taken into consideration. Hence it is that Indian reservations have been overrun in the hunt for land, and which has led people into the foolish custom of improving lands and building up a property which is liable to be confiscated at any moment. Even the semi desert lands of the west have been dotted with settlers who are engaged in a desperate struggle against nature to make a living out of the arid soil. All this indicates how quickly the rich prairie regions of Canada could be populated, if this surging tide of humanity hunting for agricultural homes could be turned in this direction.

While referring to the question of immigration, reference may be made to the valuable class of settlers we are receiving from Germany, or Germans from Russia. The Germans are showing themselves about the most successful settlers we have had in this country, and we should exert ourselves to secure all we can of them. The Scandinavians also include many who make excellent settlers.

THE ASSINIBOINE WATER POWER.

The Assiniboine river water power question is again to the fore. At the last regular weekly meeting of the Winnipeg city council, two proposals for the construction of this work were discussed. One plan, which was made public a few weeks ago, is presented by Mr. Kirby. The other is a new plan for constructing the work. This was presented by the firm of Wade & Wheeler, on behalf of certain parties whose names have not been divulged. The applicants propose to do the necessary work for the purpose of utilizing the water-power of the Assiniboine river at Winnipeg, in accordance with the charter now held by the city, from the Dominion, the work to be completed within the time specified in the charter. They want the city to rent or guarantee the rent of sufficient horse power at \$20 per annum to pay three per cent. on the cost of the work, but not to exceed the sum of \$450,000. They also ask tax exemption. The city, under this agreement, would assign its charter to a company to be formed by the

applicants. The city would have the right to purchase the works at the end of 25 years at cost price, or at the end of 50 years the works would be handed over to the city free of cost. The applicants assert their willingness to construct a canal from the Assiniboine river to Lake Manitoba, if it is found desirable to do so to increase the water power. They further offer to make a deposit of \$5,000 as a guarantee of the completion of the works within the time specified.

While the value of this water power is so great that it would not be advisable for the city to accept any plan which might be offered for the construction of the work, it would certainly be better to accept any reasonable proposal, even if not quite as favorable as could be desired, in preference to allowing this great source of wealth to continue to run to waste. The utilization of the Assiniboine water power would certainly be a splendid thing for the city of Winnipeg, and it would aid greatly in the advancement of the city, particularly in the direction of manufactures. We have now a labor population almost in advance of the ordinary requirements of the city. The high rate of wages which formerly prevailed here has now reached a point where it would be profitable to carry on manufacturing industries, other things being equal. The main thing that is now needed is the utilization of the water power. The present time would seem to offer special advantages for carrying out the work, as with the general depression and low prices which prevail in the United States and elsewhere, both labor and supplies can be obtained at abnormally low values. Thus it seems probable that the works could be constructed more cheaply now than they could have been in any past year, and perhaps at a less cost than would be necessary for a few years in the future.

Every day that this water power is allowed to run to waste, increases the loss to the city. Taking this view of the case, it would seem better even to make some sacrifices to secure the immediate construction of the works, more especially as the time seems now so propitious for the carrying out of the undertaking. It is therefore to be hoped that something practical will speedily result from the present proposals to undertake the enterprise.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT IN MANITOBA.

There is one feature of the proposed Dominion Insolvency act which has been overlooked. This is in relation to the effect the act would have in Manitoba under the present provincial exemption law. The Dominion act provides that farmers shall come under the bill the same as traders. We do not know that any particular objection can be urged to this provision on general principles, though we do not believe that under ordinary circumstances the farmers would take advantage of the act to any considerable extent. Very few farmers, we believe, would willingly make an assignment and abandon their estate to their creditors. The original wording of the act made a distinction between farmers and traders. It provided that farmers could make a voluntary

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