

a move across the border is a comparatively simple matter; southern Minnesota and Iowa are more truly typical of immigration conditions and afford perhaps the best example of how Canada's campaign for settlers is carried on.

The Canadian Government has a joint immigration office for these two states at St. Paul, which, with ten railroads radiating in many directions, is second only to Chicago as a strategic centre. Occasionally, too, a settler comes up the Mississippi. A steady stream of northward bound colonists passes through St. Paul, whose importance in Canadian eyes consists in the fact that it is the chief gateway to the Canadian West.

How these people from the Western States are converted to the Canadian idea, is a process as ingenious as it is effective. In theory and practice it is essentially missionary work on a business basis. For several years Canada has been carrying on a national publicity campaign in the United States that places her among the leading advertising agencies in America.

Such a thing as location of the immigration office, for instance, has an importance. With St. Paul as an example again, the office is a ground floor one, near the railway station. Numbers of travellers, coming from the station or going to it, pass this office at all times of day and night, and day or night they are confronted by a window display of Canadian grains, judiciously labelled. It draws well, for many stop to inquire.

Names and addresses are taken, and literature is afterwards mailed to them, at intervals. A similar means of creating interest is the fair exhibit. For the past twelve years the department has made attractive exhibits at state and county fairs throughout the west, with good results. The most important of these exhibits is at the Minnesota State Fair, an annual event modelled after the Toronto Exhibition, and second to it, the largest on the continent. The Canadian exhibit at the Minnesota Fair is made up of an attractive display of grains and vegetables from Manitoba and the Northwest, which people see and stop to ask questions about.

It is one thing, however, to interest people when they come to be interested, and quite another thing to reach them in their own homes. The farmer who does not visit fairs and cities must be appealed to by a different kind of publicity. And after all, these are the men whom it is most important to reach, for the chances are, they are the busy, thrifty people who have the makings of the best settlers. Their interest is first challenged by advertisements in their farm or local papers, some eight thousand of which are used throughout the United States.

The personal canvas comes next. At certain seasons the immigration agents drive into the country and talk Canada wherever a willing listener and probable settler is to be found. In the winter months they hold public meetings, at which are shown lantern pictures of Canadian farms and homesteads. Nothing is quite so effective with the farmers, along these lines, as the picture of the prosperous home of a man who had moved to Canada from their own or a near-by community a few years before; it is a conclusive "what-he-did-you-can-do" argument.

But with all this sowing of the seed, it sometimes takes a long time for the fruits to show. Results, in the form of actual moving, have come only this year from inquiries and canvassing made first some six years ago. A poor harvest sometimes postpones the possibility of moving for several years. And again, if the truth must be told, a common cause of delay is the disinclination of the farmer's wife. About five years ago an Iowan, who had been attracted by some immigration literature, decided to go to Canada, but his wife flatly refused to live in "a country frozen up most of the year." The following summer he went to see for himself what the country was like, and returned enthusiastic; but his wife was still unwilling. Last year he made another tour of inspection, and this time he took his wife with him. She saw, was convinced and converted, and last spring they moved their family and their goods to Alberta. Which goes to show that a woman convinced by her own eyes makes a good settler.

Just such inspection visits as this, with or without their wives, are made every fall by numbers of prospective settlers. They have been thinking of moving north, but it is a big venture and they wish to know something of the country at first-hand before finally deciding and so, when the slack time comes after harvest, they buy excursion tickets to Manitoba and Alberta, and take a fortnight's holidays. Now

and then a group of neighboring farmers appoint one of their number a delegate to spy out the land for them all. The chances are that as an outcome of this inspection one or more families will move north the following spring.

The net result of all this canvassing, questioning, and investigating is that from forty to fifty thousand settlers cross the line each year. And they are, as all Canada knows, good settlers. They are, many of them, moneyed men, too. The sale of their lands puts ready cash in their hands, and the majority take from \$3,000 to \$10,000 with them to Canada. One Minnesota man took \$38,000; another from Nebraska had a bank account of \$100,000; and 262 men from the latter state moved north in March, 1904, with eighty cars of settlers' effects, and an estimated capital of \$430,000. It is particularly noticeable that both in personal quality and worldly goods, this year's immigrants, from Minnesota and Iowa especially, are above the average.

Naturally, this flitting across the border, while very satisfactory to Canadians, is somewhat displeasing to the State authorities. A few years ago one of the Minnesota senators called attention in the Senate to the immigration campaign being carried on in behalf of Canada, and asked for some measure of restriction. It did not carry; but it attracted considerable attention and proved a very effective advertisement for Canada. The idea seemed a good one, and the next year an interested landowner endeavored to lobby another senator to repeat the motion; but the Senate was not to be caught again. Since then the legislature has been blind, on policy, and were further action to be attempted at any time it would receive doubtful support because of the fact that not a few of the senators are themselves interested in land speculations in Western Canada. One, for instance, not only owns a section of land, but has sons, brothers, and nephews, to the number of nineteen, already settled and at work elsewhere in the West.

More aggressive opposition is being shown by some of the railway companies whose interests lie in the development of the southwest, rather than the northwest. In some cases it has been even thought necessary to counteract the Canadian campaign by the old frozen-north cry, in contrast with the 'golden sunny south' and there have not been wanting instances in which certain railways have wilfully delayed freight billed for Canada. In one section of southern Minnesota several families, after disposing of their land, waited for thirty days for cars in which to move their effects. Failing even then to secure the cars, they were forced to go back to the country and rent farms for another season, postponing their move to Canada till the next year. Usually however, the railroads are anxious for the business and the lines running north are profiting by the immigration traffic.

Alberta's Winter Wheat

The winter wheat crop in southern Alberta is of such a volume this year as to indicate that it will be a staple in that part of the province. The area over which winter wheat has been grown is quite large and the yields that are coming from the thresher are uniformly satisfactory. The climate of southern Alberta is such that wheat that has a good stand in the early spring when cold dry winds are liable to prevail, will be in a position to go on and give a good account of itself before the end of July. But winter wheat to amount to a big crop should be sown early. August is the month when the seed should be gotten in, and the better shape the land is in for seeding, the better will be the crop. Some good results have of course been got from September sowing, but in grain growing, if a thing is worth doing at all, it is worth doing well, and all the extra spurt possible should be made to get winter wheat in early, and the land well worked before and after. Deep plowing, thin packing, then surface working have been preached in Alberta as the essentials in cultivation, and no doubt winter wheat growers will follow the preaching as nearly as circumstances will allow and what is more necessary still, make circumstances allow it.

Power Alcohol to be Tested

That the cause of denatured alcohol for farm power purposes is making headway is illustrated by the action taken by the U. S. government in its appropriation for the National Corn Show at Omaha next December. The appropriation is not specifically set forth in the agricultural bill as was originally suggested, but is taken care of in the general appropriation for the bureau of

chemistry, which has been increased from \$725,000 carried by the house bill to \$810,000, of which \$10,000 is to be used by the Department of Agriculture for demonstration purposes at Omaha.

At the suggestion of Secretary Wilson, who enthusiastically endorsed the purposes for the forthcoming corn exposition, the amendment to the paragraph relating to the bureau of chemistry was adopted as follows: "To demonstrate and illustrate methods for the making of denatured alcohol on a scale suitable for utilization by the farmer, or association of farmers."

This is one of the things Canadian farmers should work for. Cheap fuel in the shape of alcohol would mean a big saving on every farm, as it would tend to regulate the price of coal oil and gasoline. Every politician who goes before the country should have some opinions on the subject of denatured alcohol and should be able to intelligently back them up. He should also endeavor to interest capital in the manufacture of the product.

What Some of Our Land Needs

Every observant visitor to the west, who is at all conversant with farming affairs, notes the difference between the crops on well farmed land and those on land that is simply cropped. Others also note this condition.

Commonly we say of land that is beginning to show the effects of wear that it has been "worked too hard," but in reality it has lost "heart" because it has not been worked enough. To the man who has an instinct for detecting various conditions of the land, the "thinness," shallowness, and general poverty of the top soil on many farms is striking. There is too much land that has simply been worked on the surface, that has been plowed so often at a certain depth that the soil on top is different in texture and color to that lying just below it. Clover has never been grown to bring up from below the mineral elements of plant food that leak through, nor to add to the store of nitrogen, nor to replenish the supply of vegetable matter, to help in holding moisture and giving the land a better texture. Neither is tame grass sufficiently grown to freshen up or rest up soils tired of grain growing. In fact the man with the instinct for good farming in looking over most of the land that has not produced a fair average crop this year in the districts where the rain fall was normal, will simply say it is cropped too much to one kind of crop.

Summer fallows, to a certain extent, rest land, but summer fallowing without adding manure, is like putting a hungry man to bed with an empty stomach; he will feel better when he gets up, but he won't stand work very long. What a lot of our land needs to renew its strength, make it drought and even water resistant, to kill weeds and improve the mechanical condition, is a variety of crops that will open up the subsoil and bind the surface soil.

Quick Planting of Potatoes

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Having devised a quick way to plant potatoes I thought I would tell you of it. I arranged a box on top of a sulky plow to hold the seed and then hung a stove pipe to convey them to the furrow, and by having a good steady team we can go right along. Then we follow with a common walking plow and turn two furrows on top of them, which makes three furrows between each row. We cut and seed in the following manner: I made a box 8x10 inches square and put knives across the bottom 1 1/4 inches apart and arranged a lever on the same principal as they cut curd in a cheese factory. We throw the whole potatoes into this and pull the lever. By taking a little time and placing the long potatoes across the knives it will do a good job if you are not too particular. One man can cut one hundred bushels of seed in one day and they are all right as we have a fine crop of 4 1/4 acres. We are going to feed them to the pigs. I might add that to grow potatoes in this manner the soil wants to be dry and loose, or if it is heavy it should be covered with coarse manure and plowed in to keep it open. After cutting seed, let them lay at least twenty-four hours to dry, care being taken not to pile them up so they will heat, or they will not grow.

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(Why would it not pay better to raise mangels for hogs? They are more easily handled, and the hogs like them better. If anyone has had experience with both potatoes and mangels we would like to hear it. Of course with potatoes there is a chance of selling them if the market is good. Ed.)