

The Free Press

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A Broad Immigration Policy

The problem of immigration is being
brought to the front at the present time.
It is generally admitted that it is al-
most the only solution of the railway
question. Canada is overbuilt with
rails, and as long as there are
empty spaces there will be lack of
traffic, and without traffic no system
can pay.

The question arises as to whether our
present haphazard system of placing
settlers on the land in Western Canada
should be continued or whether there
should not be closer supervision. It is
very enough to criticize, but in the past
has been pursued any other policy. For
instance, none will deny to-day that
there are large tracts of Southern Al-
berta and Southwestern Saskatchewan
which should never have been thrown
open for homestead. The officials of
the Government advised against it, but
of Hon. Frank Oliver, who was minister
of the interior at the time, had refused
to allow these lands to be opened for
settlement he would have been abused
in every platform in the West as hav-
ing been in league with the big
anchers.

Now is the time to take counsel from
the mistakes of the past. The great
Peace River country is being opened up.
Settlers are flocking in by the hun-
dreds. Shall the policy of the past be
reverted and homesteads be allowed to
lie idle, without transportation facilities,
schools, churches and schools? Students
of the problem are earnestly urging
that the machinery of the Soldiers'
Settlement Board be extended so as to
supervise all farm immigration. The
settlement board, operating in isolated
districts, has placed thousands
of veterans on the land and opened up
millions of acres of the best agri-
cultural country in Canada. It is an
enduring monument to Premier McPherson,
who as minister at the time organized
the board and who has since given the
most personal attention to the work-
ing out of the whole scheme.

The formation of such a board is
strongly advocated by Fred. V. Selbert,
I. A. Sc., president of the Dominion
Land Surveyors' Association. In an
article in McLean's Magazine, favoring
the establishment of a board, he
says:

"The formation of such a board
opens up at once great possibilities.
Its field of usefulness will be
as broad as its area. Only men
of the broadest vision should be
placed upon it, for land settlement
is a business requiring expert
administration and sound
business methods. For Canada it
should be her first and greatest un-
derlying."

"We have at the present time nine
major organizations dealing with
the land and the settler, together
with many minor ones—yet we have
no co-ordinating machinery. Surely
this is not good business. There is
only one way to have successful
land settlement. There must be a
definite connecting link between the
settler and the land. This link
should be made before he leaves
his former home, and should be
maintained until he is estab-
lished as an economical producer."

Mr. Selbert's proposals appear sane
and sensible and should be capable
of being worked out by co-operation be-
tween the Dominion and Provincial
governments. There may be good
reasons why they are not feasible, but
they are not apparent on the surface.
Is Premier McPherson initiated the sol-
diers' settlement plan he would doubt-
less be favorable to a broader policy if
economically sound and not financially
too heavy for Canada to assume.

A Fine Record

In view of the world-wide depression
in shipping at the present time, the
statement of Hon. C. C. Ballantyne in
parliament as to the operations of the
Canadian Mercantile Marine is aston-
ishingly good. British ships are idle in
nearly every part of the world, while
hundreds of American vessels are tied
up in the harbors of the Atlantic and
the Pacific. The public was prepared
for a loss in operation, but the news
that there is a tidy surplus sufficient to
pay 2.5 per cent. on the investment is
a pleasant surprise.

Even if the system had shown a deficit
it would be well worth while. It is
not that the foresight of Mr.
Ballantyne and the courage of the Gov-
ernment, Canada to-day would be al-
most without a mercantile marine in-
stead of being one of the leading ship-
ping nations. With 47 steel vessels in
operation and 16 more under contract,
the Dominion controls the largest pub-
lic-owned fleet in the world. Canada's
flag is now floating on the seven seas
and trade routes have been opened
which otherwise could never have been
developed. New markets have been
found for Canada's agricultural and
manufacturing products.

To-day Canadian vessels are sailing
from Canada to Liverpool, London,
Brisbane and other British ports, as well
as to Cuban and South American ports,
Australia, New Zealand and India and
Africa.

During the year 1920 five new routes
were opened. They included the Mont-

The Third Column

I got a cowlick, and it stands
Up straight, I got dirty hands,
An' if it shows a single speck
I have to go an' wash my neck.

An' every day my aquiline nose
seems to see if I have washed my ears;
But I ain't ever really neat,
All on account of havin' feet.

These feet of mine are always wrong,
I mustn't shuffle 'em along
Or kick a stone that's in the way,
Or if I do someone will say:
"I wish you'd lift your feet a bit,
The way you walk gives me a fit!"
Those shoes were new a week ago,
An' now you've busted out the toe."

They're always peckin' at me, too,
For standin' like the fellers do,
An' just because my toes turn in,
The teacher makes the pupils grin
By tellin' me ten times a day:
"Please turn your toes the other way!"
An' even when I'm in my seat
She kicks if I just swing my feet.

If I get nervous an' I put
One shoe upon the other foot,
Or scrape the floor, they say: "My
land!"
Is this the way a boy should stand?"
An' if I rest 'em on a chair,
Ma says: "Don't put your feet up
there!"
An' I sit on them they roar:
"Please put your feet upon the floor!"

I'm gettin' tired of all this talk
About the way I stand or walk,
An' anyhow it seems to me,
At least as far as I can see,
My feet aren't any different than
The other fellers round her an'
Some day my temper will explode—
It ain't my fault I'm pigeon-toed.

—Edgar A. Guest.

Newfoundland's First Hold-Up

The news report which testifies to
the fact that on March 28 the first
"hold-up" that has ever taken place
on the Island of Newfoundland was
made public.

A splendid record has been broken.
The general comment on the incident
is likely to be: "Newfoundland has
been indeed lucky. The islanders stand
unique in the new world, in the whole
world, for unswerving observance of
law and order, which is the outward
sign and symbol of sterling citizenship.
Instead of condemnation and criticism
the event is likely to draw attention
to the fact that amid a very welter of
brigandage and banditry, which has
swept the four corners of the world as
the reaction of the world as a whole
An' even when I'm in my seat
She kicks if I just swing my feet.

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One shoe upon the other foot,
Or scrape the floor, they say: "My
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PEOPLE WEALTH.

The only kind of wealth worth while
is that which you are able to keep and
live from.

Wealth built from money alone is un-
substantial—for it is very possible to
have it swept away at a single bound.
Nothing centered in money can be said
to be certainly set and stable.

But that which enriches your heart
and your mind and aids you in the ap-
preciation of all things, is a kind of
wealth which nothing can take from you.

Most of our learning comes from
books, people and observation.
The most interesting and absorbing
source of wealth comes from people. Let
us call it people-wealth.

Everybody has something for you if
you will recognize it and go after it.
Only this evening I spent an hour
with a man whose personality was any-
thing but inspiring. I saw that I was
in the midst of a mine with great
treasures of wealth in it. So I tried
to find a little of some that might be
of useable value. And I found some.

I care not what the person, there is
good in everybody—somewhere.

I once read a story of a man who
died and left but one mourner at his
grave—a dog! But who would not wel-
come the affection of one so faithful?

We pass up opportunities to enrich
ourselves from people just as we do to
enrich ourselves in a material way. The
interest of the world rests in people.
When we are loneliest we want for
someone who is human and full of un-
derstanding—some person of whose love
we may partake.

I came across this quotation the other
day, written by a man who lived two
thousand years ago: "Among men, re-
ject none; among things, reject noth-
ing." This is called comprehensive in-
telligence.

Every once in a while I go to my
"People Bank" and draw out a little
of the love and thoughtfulness given
me, maybe years ago, and I am
inspired anew!

It's great to be worth millions—in
people wealth.

—George Matthew Adams.

NOTE AND COMMENT

Doubt never built a career.

A blottoat—synonym for a war
profiteer.

Free verse: Poesy published with-
out price!

One of life's little surprises is how
often they come.

King Coal's black record is nearly
over this year.

A man's sine and his creditors are
apt to "call again."

General Economy usually recruits
from the fifteen pers.

There are other things than cars that
are cranky when someone buzzes them
round.

Is Hon. Manning Doherty qualifying
for Carlyle's title: "The sea-green in-
corruptible?"

As in the days of the poet, Campbell,
now, the Russian bear "growls for
patriot flesh."

The incurable cynic suggests, "Jag
recruitment" for a man who revels in
the "SHIRLY" Night."

Sweeter than sugar and the sugar
beet must be the contract that catches
the growers of Kent County.

The return of the waltz would mean
the return of good manners. Girls,
watch your grandmother's step.

Delaware has gone back to the whip-
ping post for thieving men, why not
the ducking stool for scolding women?

The world's new colored troops—the
Russian Reds—the U. S. A. "Blues"—
and the great hordes of "yellow perils."

The rule of the road should be re-
viewed every little now and then. Its
cardinal precept does not include—rush-
ing center.

Appropriate for the summer boarder:
"I spy
A fly—
Gee, he
Spies me!"

"Keep the friendly hand extended"
is Sir John Martin Harvey's advice to
those who realize the value of
friendship among the Anglo-Saxon
peoples.

A German futurist film will no doubt
"feature" that nation straining every
muscle to meet the reparations. To
what limit the imagination's muscles
will stretch!

The Free Press

Editor: The Free Press, London, Ontario.
I am a little of a letter box
to answer F. G. B. I am greatly in-
terested in your open letter page. Now,
Mr. F. G. B., in your first letter you
stated that you had come to Canada from
England so that your sons should not
have the temptation of the drink that
was constantly in their way; also that
they might not have drunken wives. In
your letter of the 16th you stated that
you came out years before the war
started.

Now, my friend, how do you account
for that. Didn't you know that Canada
was good and wet before the war. You
came from a beer-drinking country to a
whisky-drinking country. I myself love
Canada or any other country where the
Union Jack waves the breeze, but I
cannot see how you were taking them
away from the drink. You could have
had a farm in England if the farm
is the only place to get away from
drink.

I love your Canadian children and I
would think that they were weak-mind-
ed or something of that nature if I had
to take them to the other side of the
world to save them from something I
myself can take or leave alone. I do
not intend to say more about your
sons as you say they did their bit.

Now, sir, what about the drunken
wives? How many Canadians and Aus-
tralians married English wives who
overseas? Why slander the whole of
the British Empire just to get your
points. Thousands of Canadians have
married wives who came from England.
Now, you turn to your Bible and read
where God was about to destroy Sodom
and Gomorrah, but God was willing to
save that wicked place if he could find
10 good people. Now, I think you could
find 10 million good and sober women in
the British Isles, but you are not
all for the sake of a few. I am proud to
have an Englishwoman for my mother,
who gave her sons for King and coun-
try. She used to take a glass of wine
with her dinner daily, but never more
than one. She crossed the ocean at the
age of 76 and is still living and well.

In this week's Sunday paper I saw
where an English girl cut her hair off
and sold and sent the money to her
Government to help in the very small
way to relieve its financial situation.
That's the spirit we want in Canada
and have you forgotten Edith Cavell?
I could write books on others, but space
will not permit. Now, F. G. B., can
you tell me why most of your pro-
hibition fighters cannot play a fair
game. Not long ago one of your chief
workers in Toronto made this state-
ment: "That on Christmas Day, 1916,
the Canadians were so drunk that the
Germans could have broken through.
It was a lie and he was up in court for
it. Others like yourself attack England.
Why don't you play fair like A. H.
Rhodes, of Rhodesia, who was a soldier
and a statesman. He would not let
to-day's paper would get more votes,
while yours will only lose votes. I will
vote for prohibition when men like
him are in the lead, but not before.
Now, F. G. B., in conclusion, I would
like to ask you which part of this
diamond you represent. The nature of
a human being is like a finely cut dia-
mond. It reflects a multitude of color
flashes as the light of other person-
alities is played upon it. Through the
warm glow of brotherly love in your
own nature you draw out the most deli-
cate rays of kindness, respect and ad-
miration in others—while the cold
flame of hatred, jealousy or revenge in
your heart will cause flashes of resent-
ment, suspicion and doubt in those you
meet.

ROYAL ARCH ORANGEMAN.
London, March 19, 1921.

THE BIBLE IN SCHOOL.

Editor Free Press: In your contem-
porary's issue of Friday evening last
occurs an editorial under the above
heading, in which the suggestion is
made that "a learned committee, rep-
resenting all sects and shades of opin-
ion," be appointed to draw up a small
volume of readings from the Bible and
other books suitable to the moral and
spiritual needs of school-children, with,
perhaps, also an amount of commentary
literary, historical, moral and philoso-
phical to be used by the teacher."

It further says that "such a commit-
tee might be able to agree on a fairly
extensive canon and draw up a book
or canon of great use not only to school
children, but to the community at
large." The reason for these sugges-
tions being apparently the "general re-
laxation and obscuring of moral stand-
ards in these days the people seem to
be in need of some authority that all
might respect."

Now, while it may be generally con-
ceded that such a committee might
draw up such a small volume of Bible
readings, and that it would be useful
to the moral and spiritual needs of
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any commentary, whether literary, his-
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