



Samples of Western Canada's Bright Boys whose Future Employment is a Problem that Demands Earnest Consideration.

The Future of the Western Youth

He Will Need the Varied Employment of the Factory

By H. D. SCULLY

EARNING a living for themselves and their families is a big enough problem to engage most parents most of the time. Making both ends meet is the eternal question the world over, particularly in Canada, a young country, where livings are provided for few by inheritance. But there are other problems the parent has to wrestle with, not the least of which is that of his sons' and, in not a few cases, his daughters' life work. What is the boy best fitted for? What field offers the best reward? How shall he secure a good opening? These are the ever present questions that face the fathers of boys almost from their infancy. If the boy displays no special aptitudes the problem is most perplexing, not to say distressing. Where he indicates capabilities in a certain direction, while it is always easy to find an opening, the location of a position in which the boy will have ample opportunity to do himself and his parents justice is by no means easy. Where the fields of employment are limited it is almost impossible to give the youth of the country the opportunities which they have a right to expect.

That was the condition that prevailed in Canada thirty or more years ago. Those were the days of large families. All the boys could not find a living on father's farm. The boy with artistic tendencies, a mechanical bent of mind, or who showed capabilities in some line of industrial activity had little or no opportunity of developing. On the other side of the border a young nation was just beginning to pulsate with industrial life. Varied and congenial employment was offered in every field of enterprise. Canadian boys who did not care to follow the plow heard the siren call of their life work and crossed the boundary line to the number of 1,000,000. Only during the past twenty years has this exodus diminished, thanks to the symmetrical development of the country, to the establishment of diversified industries, in a word to the fact that Canada's trade policy led to uniform progress in agriculture, manufacturing, mining and in every form of national activity.

Sleepy country towns became thriving industrial centres. The boy from the farm who was skilful with tools and was attracted by the hum of machinery went to the neighbouring town and found steady work at good wages making stoves or plows for his father. If he had special ability and ordinary common sense he became owner of the business and is now making stoves and plows for his cousins in the Great West. The comparative isolation of life on the farm gave way to friendly intercourse with the people of the town. The exchange of ideas with his fellow workmen, with the citizens of the town in other vocations, and

in turn with the farmers who came in to sell the town its food supply proved mutually beneficial. The powerful attraction of the big United States factory was superseded by the steady work, good wages and healthy surroundings of the growing Canadian factory. The problem of a son's life work, no matter what his talents, disposition and aims, could be solved at home. He did not need to settle it in the United States and assist in the upbuilding of that great nation. There was work for him to do at home and he did it. Such has been the development of the Home Market in the older parts of Canada during the last generation.

JUST now we face a new set of conditions in Western Canada. In many respects they are not unlike those that prevailed in older Canada forty years ago. Grain growing is the paramount industry in the West to-day, and thanks to a beneficent Providence, given proper methods of tillage, it will always occupy first place. The manufacturing industry is only in its infancy in the West as yet. Store-keeping and railroading are the two great sources of employment for young men in the West apart from farming. What are the sons of

the present farmers in the West going to do for a living when they grow up? As yet the West has hardly been settled long enough to produce a full generation of children, but when it does what are they all going to do? Many, no doubt, if free homesteads are available when they reach their majority, will follow in father's footsteps and go on the farm.

But what of the others? What of the young man whose taste lies in designing? Where will he find an outlet for his talents in his own part of the country? And what of the embryo cabinet makers, machinists, electricians, chemists and other industrial workers who will develop in the West in the near future? Must we send them abroad to find work suited to their capabilities? And what of the daughters of the West? Are they all going to stay at home? Their Ontario cousins are busy earning good wages, making the Westerners' underwear, carpets, confectionery, clothes and other necessities. Shall the Western girl be denied the same opportunities for her energy and skill?

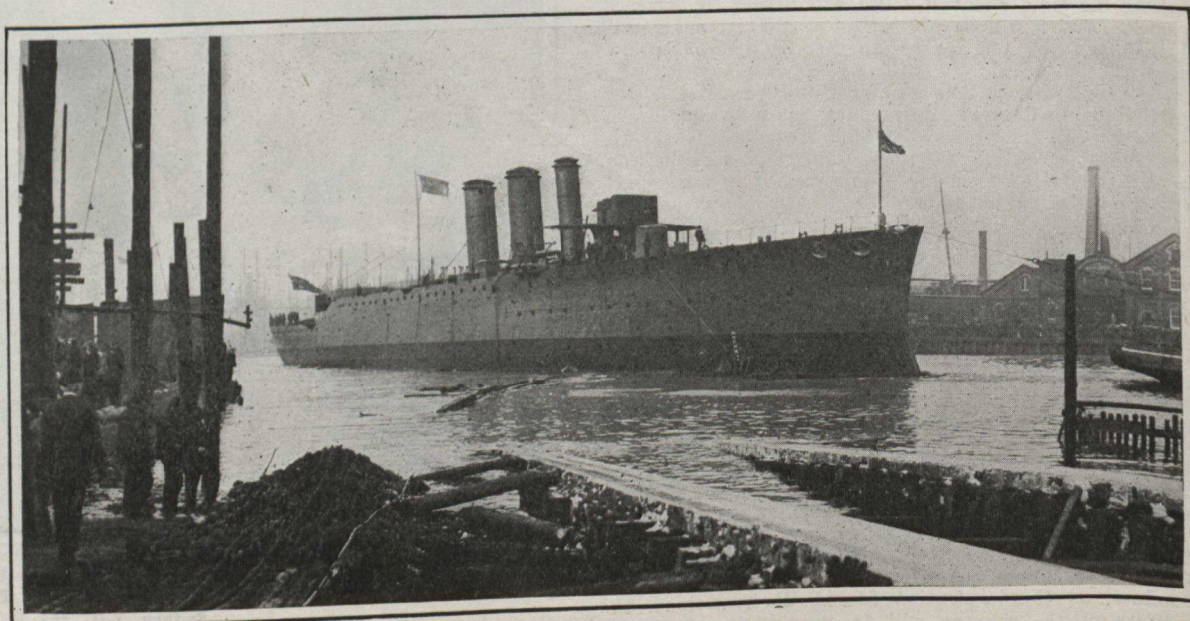
And what of the Western towns? Are they to remain as they are, shopping and distributing centres in most cases with no producing industries? Many have reached their limit as to population and business as such. They must develop the factory or mark time. Will the Western farmer be satisfied year in and year out with the same little business centres with their limited opportunities for social intercourse and pleasures?

AS the life of the West centres more and more in farming, the problem of providing varied employment for those who live there will become intensified. Already in the towns in winter months there is sometimes a dearth of employment. Generally speaking there is little mixed farming. Few cattle are kept on most farms and as a result dairying and meat production are hardly holding their own. This form of farming provides employment the year round. Not so wheat and oat culture.

As the children of the present settlers of the West grow into manhood and womanhood, the problem of finding suitable employment for them will supersede all of the big problems which we hear so much about to-day, unless development in other lines of activity begins at once. The factory with its abundant openings for the skilled artisan, for the office man or woman, the salesman and the organizing or executive genius cannot be built in a day. Already there is a place in the West for the busy workshop, and within the next decade it will become essential to well-balanced progress in the West.

Specialization is all very well in its place, but specialization in Western farming has gone far enough if we want to keep in Canada all the young people who wish to specialize in some other field. Fortunately the factory chimney is already shooting up in the West. It is not very tall or very wide as yet, but it is growing. Mixed farming, which our agricultural experts are unanimous in prescribing for wheat specialization in the West, will hasten its development. Mixed farming demands a market for its varied and often perishable products at its very door. The factory provides such a market. Its employees, building and owning their own homes, raise good, healthy, average-sized families. Their children must be fed.

Australia's New Protected Cruiser



Australia's New Cruiser, The Sydney, was Launched on Aug 1st 29th. at Govan, Scotland. This makes Australia's First Fleet Unit Nearly Complete.