

Englishmen in the Canadian West.

THOUGH it may seem invidious to draw any distinction between the Englishmen proper, and any other of the English speaking people who go to make up the population of this land, not only of magnificent distances, but also of unlimited power as a supplier of food to the world at large. Yet considering the continuous and ever increasing tide of immigration which flows hitherward from the "tight little isle" some special notice of the effect his presence is having upon his new surroundings is worthy the consideration.

It may be remarked that on the opening up to colonization a new district on the American continent, the Englishman is seldom a pioneer. As a rule, the Irishman comes first with his axe, plough and spade, or pick and shovel, to commence the attack on the primeval forces of nature both active and inert.

The Scotchman follows next in order, finding occupation for his characteristic shrewdness in making bargains and trading generally on a scale in accordance with the requirements of those with whom he has to deal. Hard work is not usually the strong point of the Scot, work itself being to him but a means to an end, and though at times he may labor as hard and intelligently as any other, it is only for so long as it will pay him to do so, or in other words, until he has accumulated sufficient capital to enable him to live upon the labor of others. This description of the order of precedence is perhaps more correct as applied to the settlement of Canada of old time rather than to the way we find it in Manitoba. There being but comparatively few Irishmen in this district, the pioneers being for the most part of Scottish descent who found congenial occupation as hunters, trappers and traders in the Hudson Bay Company's service. It is necessary to make this digression in order to show that, exception proves the rule and that the relative precession of the nationalities would, all things being equal be the same here as elsewhere.

Last, but not least, save perhaps in the estimation of, some of his fellow countrymen, the Englishman came to Manitoba. When he did so he came by hundreds, many with but little or no capital. Suffering, hardship and privation has been the lot of not a few, but in the end, indomitable pluck, determination and perseverance has overcome the obstacles which at first threatened to overwhelm them, but to-day most have attained to a position of comparative independence to which in the nature of things they were never likely to have arrived at had they remained at home.

Hundreds more of this nationality have arrived well furnished with the gilded seeds of the higher civilization. Starting in life amid entirely new and primitive surroundings the temptations to run wild and dissipate, seems to be the most dangerous obstacle the young Englishman of education and capital had to contend with, for being as it were, suddenly released from the strictness of his previous social relations, cut loose amongst strangers, composed for the most part of people he considers "natives," a class of creature which has for centuries been held in sublime contempt by Englishmen, probably finding later on that the feeling has been thoroughly reciprocated by these natives when they have his cash, and he naught to show but a dearly bought experience.

But in such a case, should the worst have come to pass, his chances of again retrieving his lost possessions are infinitely greater in this grand new country, than they would have likely been had the same disaster overwhelmed him at home.

To the level headed, business trained young Englishman with moderate capital, Manitoba and the Northwest territories offer undreamed of opportunities for lucrative investment, owing to the amount of as yet but very partially developed natural resources. Capital commands a high rate of interest, and it may be said with truth that one dollar of cash capital here is as efficient for the general purposes of commercial investment as is one pound sterling silver in the British Isles. To know and fully appreciate what Englishmen and English influences have done for the Northwest and for Canada generally, requires long previous residence in, or acquaintance with the country.

To the new comer the country, especially the more recently settled districts will yet appear rude and primeval; but the manners and customs of the people, the procedure of legislature, and of legislation, the very tricks of speech and habits of thought are ever becoming English more and more, and the new comer can no longer, as in old time, suppose he has struck upon a new Ireland or a new Scotland, in the bush. Indeed so English has Manitoba become since the jubilee celebration of two years ago that on public occasions any extreme profession of loyalty either to the Empire or the Throne, are considered but the frothy effusion of the cheap politician, and entirely unnecessary and as unmeaning as would like professions be in England under similar conditions.

Another great advancement which the country has made within the last few years, one which the interest England has taken in the country has done much to bring about is the increase in the number of cities, and the wonderful expansion of the population.

The population of these cities even yet may appear small to the new comer, but taken in proportion to that of the country, and considering the tremendous area over which that population is spread, the sparseness of inhabitant, will be seen to be more in seeming than reality.

Again, we must remember that cities are the metropolis of districts vast beyond conception in extent, but yet connected by unbroken lines of rail which place them in direct communication with the utmost limits of the civilized world.

As a proof of how much English influence has to do with the increased expansion and prosperity, not only in Manitoba, but the Dominion as a whole, let us take the postal directory of any of our cities or larger towns, giving the names of the members of the various mercantile firms, manufacturing establishment and heads of business enterprises generally. We shall find at least two names of English origin against one of either of the other nationalities.

As long ago as 1885, the Winnipeg volunteer corps known as the Ninetieth Battalion was suddenly called out to meet the first flush of the Northwest Rebellion. The rush to fill the vacancies in the various companies was supplied by the English residents to such an extent that the regiment as then constituted was as much English in its personnel as are most of the so called county regiments in the British regular army at present. In educational matters, arts and all other achievements also, do Albion's sons hold their own against all comers.

To sum up, it may be said the Englishman has displayed every evidence of his determination of making the Province of Manitoba more like England itself than any other spot can be found on the face of the earth outside the old land.

Each year sees Northwest Canada becoming more and more settled, and primeval conditions ameliorated. Within its limits thousands of English families can find breathing space and room for expansion in every direction, with less