

the land of promise. A new Canada is being created beyond the Great Lakes.

A very small fraction of the Western fertile soil is under cultivation and already the phenomenal yield has prompted the nations at large to call the Prairie Provinces "the granary of the world." Already in Canada the industrial, commercial, and to a great extent the political world hinges on the Western crop. It is the great source of Canada's national wealth. For, the prodigious resources of our mines and forests and the annual yield of our harvest are the two poles upon which revolves the credit of our country abroad. But the growing value of the West in the economical and national life of Canada is a mere shadow of its increasing importance in the religious world. Above the hum of the binders and the loud clatter of the threshing machines, above the sharp voice of the shrieking steel rail counting, as it were, one by one, the freighted cars on their way to the Eastern ports, above the clamor of commerce and industry, ring out the voices of immortal souls. The West for the Church of God is also the land of great possibilities and brilliant promise. The waving sea of its wheat fields call to mind the words of the Master: "Lift up your eyes and see the countries ready for the harvest. . . . The harvest is great indeed but the labourers are few. . . ."

On his return from a visit to our Canadian West Cardinal Bourne in the course of conversation spoke of Canada with almost exclusive reference to the Western Provinces. Some one remarked to him, "Your Grace is referring to conditions in the West?" "Yes, the West, the West is Canada!" he replied.

No one can over estimate from a Catholic standpoint the importance of the West. It is a new empire that is being created beyond the Lakes, an empire with tremendous and perennial resources, with ambitious ideals and progressive policies, with forward looking people and youthful leaders. There the ultra-conservatism of the East has been brushed aside and space made for a new democracy. The question of paramount importance for us is: "What will be the condition of the Church in that coming part of Canada? What share will she have in the solving of the social, educational and economical problems of that new domain?"

Every Catholic should be interested in this vital issue. The call of the West for a Catholic is the call of the Church, the call of a Mother to a loyal son. She has a right to a hearty