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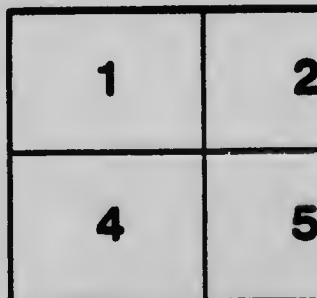
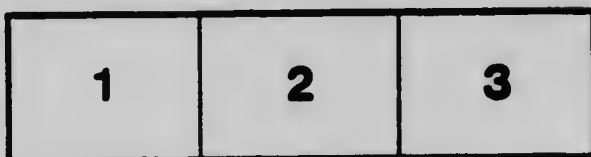
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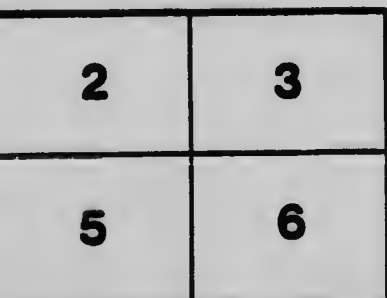
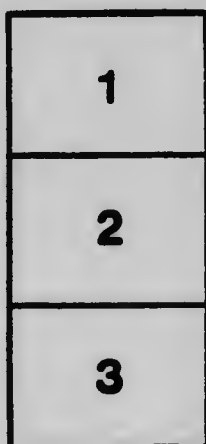
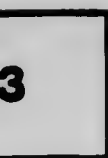
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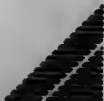
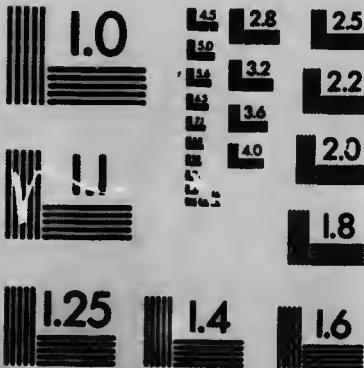
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by **C. C. JAMES, C.M.G.**

(Deputy Minister of Agriculture for the Province of
Ontario, Canada),

**To BRITISH AGRICULTURAL
EDITORS.**



C. C. JAMES, C.M.G.,
Deputy Minister of Agriculture for the Province of Ontario, Canada.

THE first visit to London of Mr. C. C. James, C.M.G., Deputy Minister of Agriculture for the Province of Ontario, since he was honoured by the King for his work in the interests of agriculture, was made the occasion of a very pleasant gathering at the Ontario Government Offices, 163, Strand, W.C., of London Editors of British agricultural papers.

Among those who accepted the invitation of Mr. N. B. Colcock, Agent in Great Britain for the Ontario Government, to hear an unusually well-informed address on the agricultural opportunities of the Province of Ontario were:—

T. W. Sanders, Esq., F.L.S., F.R.H.S., Knight of the First Class of the Royal Order of Wasa, Sweden (Editor, "Amateur Gardening"); G. T. Burrows, Esq. ("Agricultural Gazette"); A. J. Barton, Esq. ("Farm, Field and Fireside"); C. P. Prown, Esq. ("Daily Mail"); G. H. Lepper, Esq. ("Standard of Empire"); Alex. Grant, Esq. ("Farmer and Stock-breeder"); D. Edwyn Thomas, Esq. ("Farm and Home"); A. B. Bunyard, Esq. ("Farm Life").

After a formal introduction by Mr. N. B. Colcock, Mr. James, after referring to the pleasure which it gave him to meet representatives of the weekly rural press of Great Britain, gave an address, of which the following is a synopsis. Frequent reference was made to maps of Canada and of Ontario.

Canada was the first of the overseas Colonies to organise herself into a Dominion, which is made up of nine provinces in all. Quebec and the three maritime provinces form the eastern half; British Columbia and the three prairie provinces lie to the west of the Great Lakes; Ontario is the connecting link between these two groups. This central location of Ontario is a matter of great importance. All Canadian trans-continental railways must of necessity pass through Ontario. For 25 years the Canadian-Pacific has been in operation. By the end of 1912 the Grand Trunk Pacific will be completed, and following soon after that the Canadian Northern will be carrying people and produce east and west. Located on the central section of these three great transcontinental lines, Ontario will be in direct railway communication with all other parts of the Dominion. Then by referring to the map you will see how well Ontario is served by the Great Lakes and rivers—the southern portion of Ontario is almost surrounded by the greatest system of fresh water lakes in the world. Two results follow, the advantages of cheap water transportation and the modifying of climate. Another point to be noted is that this southern portion lies within the United States rather than to the north of

the same. The greatest productive portion of the United States lies east and west of Ontario, and immediately on the Southern boundary. A great deal of the transcontinental traffic of the United States passes in bond through southern Ontario. It will be seen from the above statements that southern Ontario is peculiarly favoured in her relationship to the other parts of Canada, and also to a large portion of the United States by both rail and water communication. Further, owing to the conformation of the province, she has water powers in abundance. She has also been blessed by nature with large supplies of raw products in her forests and minerals. As a consequence Ontario has become a great manufacturing province, by far the largest in Canada, and her growth in this regard is increasing more and more. The one thing in which she has been deficient and for which she had to depend upon the adjoining States is coal, but the extraordinary development taking place in the harnessing of her great water powers and the distribution of electric power will soon place her well-nigh independent of the coal fields of Pennsylvania.

One would expect to see a growth of towns and cities, and this is just what has been taking place. Toronto, the provincial capital, has increased in population at a tremendous rate during the past ten years, and so have scores of other places. As far as population is concerned this is the situation—the town and city population has during the past twenty years been increasing at a very rapid rate, while our rural population has just about held its own; in other words, while consumers of farm products have increased, producers have remained about the same. This alone would explain the much discussed question of the increased value of the products of field, garden, and orchard. To-day we are importing into Ontario some farm and garden products that we formerly produced in surplus, and those who are living on the land and are able to supply the labour necessary for their work within their own families are making money. This also accounts for the steady rise in values of land in many sections. You read a good deal in the press about increasing land values and rapid growth of towns and cities in Western Canada. It may surprise you to know that the very same thing is taking place in the Province of Ontario. Having made some reference to this central province which lies so favourably in the heart of the continent, which stretches 750 miles from salt water on the north to the fresh water lakes on the south, and 1,000 miles from Montreal on the east to the eastern boundaries of the great wheat-growing prairies of the west, it may be of some interest to know who are the people occupying it.

The first settlements began nearly 130 years ago, when, at the close of the war of American Independence, 10,000 Loyalists left the United States—or were driven out—to seek new homes

in Upper Canada (now Ontario), preferring to remain under the Royal Standard. They settled along the rivers and lakes of the southern portion. They brought little with them beyond a love for British law and British institutions; but while they were able to develop an agricultural wealth very slowly, they laid the foundations of what is to-day perhaps the most loyal section of the whole British Empire. At the close of the Continental wars some 30 years later, in 1816, there began a trek of British colonists that sent a steady stream into Ontario for 50 years and more—English, Scottish, Irish—forming settlements which for many years maintained their identity and reproduced the customs, manners, dress, and language of the old lands. Of recent years, however, these distinctions have largely disappeared, and the people of the province have become more homogeneous. The introduction of live stock came with these over-sea immigrants. Nature has done much to assist the rearing of live stock. Clear air, clean water, and rich pasture grasses are to be found there. The result is that there has grown up on the farms of Ontario the most successful lot of stock breeders to be found in any one section of the Continent. You will find there all the British breeds of cattle, horses, sheep and swine, and, in addition, some Continental varieties. Ontario is the ideal home for the British stockman who is seeking a home elsewhere. Our breeders have the home market, all the other provinces and also many of the large States of the Union to which to send their surplus product. And many of the most successful and well-to-do breeders of Ontario got their training on the farms of the British Isles. British breeders of live stock are well acquainted with Ontario breeders, some of whom are amongst the largest importers of stock to North America.

Dairying, which has been developed to so great an extent, and which is peculiarly suited to Eastern Ontario, traces back to the Scottish farmers and the Ayrshire cows which they brought out in the early days.

A glance at the map of Ontario will lead to the conclusion that it must be varied in soil and climate—it has a long irregular coast line, and also has a variation in surface elevation. The result is that it is adapted to all sorts of field production. All kinds of live stock flourish; grains and grasses can be grown to perfection; but perhaps fruit indicates this variety of production better than anything else. Apples of first quality grow everywhere over the southern part, while peaches can be grown in the open air anywhere along the lake fronts from Toronto on the east to a point well up along the east shore line of Lake Huron, a distance of over 300 miles. Plums, cherries, grapes, and small fruits are grown in large quantities in different sections. Even tobacco has become a staple crop in two or three counties. It will be seen, therefore, that there is a wide choice

for the British settler as to location, and also as to the work to be carried on.

The production of timber in the pioneer days was followed by the growing of grain for export; then the production of beef, mutton, pork, and dairy products raised the status of agriculture; to be followed by a more recent expansion of the fruit industry. Now, through the great increase in manufacturing towns and cities, a new era is setting in, namely, the specialising of agriculture, the intensive production of finished crops for local markets. And herein there is an opportunity; that British emigrants should investigate very carefully. There are splendid opportunities in Ontario to-day for the man with a family who possesses a moderate capital to take up small plots of ground adjacent to our growing cities and towns to grow garden stuff and small fruits and to raise poultry to supply the local market. The increasing demand of the western provinces for the same goods keeps prices up. Land of this kind is increasing in value. If the small farmer or gardener can control the labour question within his own family, he is sure of a good living, and even of making a good surplus. There are many sections of Ontario to-day occupied by men who are well-to-do, who started a few years ago as farm hands with little or no capital.

You ask why these opportunities are not being taken advantage of by our own people. To us the answer is easy to find. We have some of the roving spirit in our blood; there is in Ontario some of the same tendency which is to be found so freely developed in the United States, the irresistible inclination to move on to new fields with the hope of making more money. We are not so settled in our ways or habits as you are. The Eastern farmer in the U. States moved west to the middle states, thinking he could make money faster; then he moved further west to make money still faster; and now he is trekking north into the Canadian prairie provinces, moved by the same impulse. In 1886 the Canadian Pacific Railway opened up the virgin land west of the lakes, and for 25 years Ontario has been helping to develop the country and the cities of Western Canada. In addition, the growth of our towns and cities is drawing large numbers from our farms to the factories and business callings—and, as a result, the fine openings in Ontario farms and in Ontario orchards and gardens are not appreciated as they should be. Here is the chance for British colonists. We need farm labour on our farms—the demand is growing every year, and wages are increasing. We need British tenant farmers who can take the place of many of our farmers who are going west; we need British gardeners who can take up small plots and grow vegetables and produce poultry to supply our local markets.

And the conditions for home life are continually improving. We have good schools everywhere, and colleges and universities of the highest type are to be found in our leading cities. Churches of all denominations are within easy reach; a system of provincial aid is resulting in improved roads; telephone lines run through every county; suburban electric lines are being built from many towns and cities; and now our Government is inaugurating a scheme for extending the advantages of cheap electric power for lighting, and for work to the farming community. The opportunities were never better than at the present day.

The British farmer will find himself in Ontario among people of his own blood. He will find most of the successful farmers whom he meets either of British birth or the sons of those who a few years ago came from the British Isles. When he meets the successful business man of the town or city he will be surprised to find how many of them came from or were brought as mere boys from the old land, and he will find with what pride and satisfaction these men will tell him that they started with nothing, and have made what they have through their own efforts. What British people have done in Ontario British people yet can do, for the opportunities are still there, and in greater variety. Canada is growing, and she is growing in Ontario quite as much as in other parts; Canada has wonderful opportunities, and they are to be found in Ontario just as much as in the Great West. I will not here refer to the social and other advantages which an older settled province has over a new province. Some might think that I was anxious to discriminate against the west, and that I am desirous of not doing—all we ask is that the British settler, the British investor, the British farm labourer, shall look carefully into Ontario conditions, and then decide for himself where to go or where to invest his funds. Ontario never presented more favourable opportunities to the Britisher than she does to-day. What we ask is for you to study our province carefully and investigate what she offers.

If, however, the Britisher wishes to try his fortune in an entirely new country, we have even in Ontario something worth investigating; we have an immense tract of land well watered, covered with virgin forest, where good crops can be grown, where live stock thrive, and which can now be readily reached through the Provincial Government road and the transcontinental railways.

Northern Ontario is bound to play an important part in the future of Canada. The attention of the world will be attracted to the mining camps. Within its area lies the greatest nickel producing area of the world. There is to be found the Cobalt silver camp, the richest for its size; new gold camps, east, central

and west, are now being proved. There are local markets unexcelled in Northern Ontario. Some of our Ontario farmers have gone in and prospered; we hope to attract considerable numbers of Scandinavians. British settlers may do well if they understand the mode of life and farming peculiar to a wooded area. Our advice so far has been for the British settler first to spend a year or two in Southern Ontario before taking up land in the northern section. This term Northern Ontario should not frighten people, for the area is in the same latitude as Southern Manitoba and Southern Saskatchewan.

You ask as to the value of farm lands. What I have said as to the variation of climate and variation of production will indicate that there must be a great variation in land values. The Crown Lands of Northern Ontario cost the bona-fide settler 50 cents (two shillings) an acre. Improved lands in Southern Ontario vary from \$50 (£10) to \$1,500 (£300) an acre, including buildings. In a few sections where specialising and intensive cultivation have been carried out \$150 (£30) to \$500 (£100) an acre is the price. The general run of lands in Ontario will be from \$50 (£10) to \$100 (£20) an acre. I can take you to a section lying west of Toronto which 20 years ago was in large farms worth \$100 an acre; to-day it is practically all cut up into small plots of 20 acres producing vegetables and small fruits, and it is worth \$300 (£60) and more per acre. And, what will be interesting to you, many of the owners came to Ontario as farm labourers with no capital. They are making money, they are living amid the most comfortable social conditions, they are educating their children, and some of the latter will probably be among the most successful citizens of Canada a few years hence.

Our own people are just beginning to realise the great farming opportunities of Ontario. We need men and women from the British Isles to help develop our farm resources. We commend to you the careful study of our province. British people largely have made Ontario what she is to-day. The opportunities are greater than ever before. All we say is look carefully over our Province and then come and make a home for yourselves and families with us. And when you have made a home for yourselves in Ontario you will have this satisfaction of knowing that you are within reach of your friends at home and can readily communicate with them, being only seven days removed.

At the close of Mr. James's address, Mr. T. W. Sanders, F.L.S., F.R.H.S. (Knight of the first-class of the Royal Order of Wasa, Sweden), Editor of "Amateur Gardening," &c., moved a vote of thanks to the speaker, which was seconded by D. Edwyn Thomas, Esq., Editor of "Farm and Home."



