

## UNITED STATES COLONIZING CANADA

FREE WHEAT FARMS HAVE ATTRACTED ABOUT ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND AMERICANS

**S**T. LOUISE, Oct. 12.—(Special Correspondence of The Sunday Oregonian.) "Both Uncle Sam and John Bull are bringing money into Canada," said Mr. William Hutchinson, the Canadian commissioner to the St. Louis Exposition, as we sat together today in the Canadian pavilion. "Fifty thousand American farmers crossed the border last year, and we now have about 150,000 American settlers. Many of these are well to do. On the average I should say they bring about \$100 each into the country, so that we are at least \$15,000,000 richer from our recent American immigrants."

### The Canadian Southwest.

"What is the cause of the exodus?" I asked.

"The high prices of land in the United States and the free government lands of Canada," said Mr. Hutchinson. "Our western country is what Kansas and Nebraska were 40 or 50 years ago. The land is chiefly owned by the government and the railroads. The Canadian-Pacific, which built its line from Quebec to Vancouver, had the right to take a certain number of alternate sections, which it did, then cut out the richest parts of its territory, and these lands are now for sale. The Hudson's Bay Company also had large grants of land, which are now in the market."

"The balance of the unoccupied soil belongs to the government, and we are allowing it to be taken up in 160-acre tracts. All that the settler needs do is to take out his papers, at a cost of \$10, and live on and cultivate the land for three years, when the government will give him a title. If he has sons of 18 years or over they can take up the adjoining quarter, and so on, until he owns his own home while proving up his land. The son of Mr. Duncan, one of my assistants here, is an Indian boy of 20. He was 18 when he took up a quarter section, and next year he will get the title to it. He has never had more than \$100 ahead; but when that title is proved up he will have \$1000. There are hundreds of such instances. A family coming in takes up as much as it can, and its members often buy the adjoining railroad lands, so that they have good-sized farms."

"What are lands worth?" I asked.

"In the territory where they are being taken up from \$10 to \$20 per acre, according to the character of the soil and its nearness to the railroad. Speculators have picked up here and there some large tracts. One company at St. Paul recently bought 1,000,000 acres at \$5 per acre. They raised the price at once to \$6 per acre. And the people who would not take a few years to get their money back, and the market at \$8 fairly fell over each other in their eagerness to take it at \$5."

**100,000,000 Acres of Wheat.**

"Just where is the new wheat region, Mr. Hutchinson?"

"There is some east of Manitoba, but the great wheat country of today is in Manitoba, and in Assinibina and Saskatchewan, and also in Alberta beyond. These states have vast fields with a population of about 200,000,000 acres. That is equal to ten states the size of Ohio, and it is estimated that 100,000,000 acres of this are now offered to homesteaders."

"Just north of that region," continued Mr. Hutchinson, "lies Athabasca, a vast territory which will raise wheat, but which has not yet been taken up for settlement. Athabasca contains more than 150,000,000 acres. It is more than three times as large as your state of New York. Altogether we have now 175,000,000 acres in the Northwest which have been surveyed, but not yet taken up; and three-fourths of these are in Alberta. The wheat crop is a tract about 300 miles long and 40 miles wide. In the eastern part of Canada there are vast pulp wood farms, the trees of which are worth about \$40 per acre. This is also wheat land when cleared."

"What is the wheat output of the western country now?"

"Last year it was 65,000,000 bushels. Twelve years ago it was practically nothing."

**Miss Canada to Feed John Bull.**

"What are its possibilities?"

"We shall feed the world," said the Canadian commissioner. "Uncle Sam has boasted of feeding John Bull with a spoon, but the day will come when his daughter, Miss Canada, will do that for him. We have a million people now filled with our wheat, flour and cheese. I believe that we shall feed Uncle Sam as well. Your wheat lands play out after a time. Good hard wheat cannot be raised by fertilizers and intensive cultivation, so that the hard wheat country tends to go to the soft land, which you will grow in population through your mines, minerals, and manufacturing resources to such an extent that you will not be able to raise your own food. You have 80,000,000 people. By and by you will have 100,000,000. Then we will feed you."

**A Nation of Farmers.**

"We are a nation of farmers," continued the Canadian Commissioner. "That is our business which we expect to develop just as you are doing your manufacturing. At present there are many large farms, but also many small ones. About 87 per cent of the farmers own their own farms. This is especially so with the French of the Northeast. In the West farming is done on a large scale. The land is broken up with gang plows. The threshing is done by threshing gangs who go with their immense machines from farm to farm. Ten thousand Americans came to Canada recently to help recruit our wheat crop."

"The harvests are too big to be put into barns, and great elevators have been built at the railway stations, so that the wheat goes direct from the thresher to the elevator without a long haul. We have now more than 1000 elevators west of Lake Superior, which will hold over 40,000,000 bushels of wheat on one site. We have one elevator at Fort William, on Lake Superior, which has a capacity of 3,200,000 bushels. We are building more elevators right along and more railroads. I tell you, you people do not realize what is going on in the Canadian Northwest. We have an entire region which is growing faster in population and wealth than any other part of the world. We have some millions of square miles of the best land on earth. It is a black loam, very deep and very rich."

**How Wheat is Raised in Canada.**

"But, Mr. Hutchinson," said I, "if these lands are so good, why have they not been taken up before?"

"For several reasons. There were no railroads until lately. We did not know what we had. We thought these lands too far north for wheat. Some of the best of them are 2000 miles nearer the north pole than City of St. Louis. We also thought the climate would be too short to plant and harvest. We have now learned how to work. We break up the ground in the Summer or Fall, and seed the wheat crop in the following Spring. Perhaps we may raise a crop of flax first. The next Spring as soon as the snow has gone and the ground is still frozen, we run the seeder over the fields and cover the grain with the dirt on the surface. There may be only one inch of soil



frozen, but the first hot days bring the wheat up by magic. It comes up in a compact, evenness, and to the whole country is a sheet of green. I have known of three wheat crops being planted in three successive years without plowing, although we do not advise that. The frost keeps thawing out for weeks and gives moisture to the fresh young wheat."

**The Flour Mills of the Northwest.**

"Tell me something about the yield per acre."

"It is better than yours, by a great deal. Our average for ten years has been 21 bushels per acre. The United States rarely shows an average of more than 14."

"What do our American exporters think of the prospect?"

"They don't like it. The Minneapolis millers have been establishing mills to grind Canadian wheat for export. The wheat is shipped there in bond to the seacoast. They do this on the ground that the Canadian hard wheat sent to the United States is used there to mix with the European wheat in making flour similar to the American, and is thus hurting your export flour trade."

"But why do you not ship flour to Europe?"

"We do. We have large mills at Winnipeg and at Montreal."

**Winnipeg in 1904.**

"What kind of place is Winnipeg?"

"It is the Chicago of Canada, and the metropolis of the new wheat country. It is the gateway to the Northwest, and it grows as fast as our grain fields. It has now 70,000 people, and it built more than \$5,000,000 worth of new buildings last year. It has electric lights and railways, boulevards and all manner of improvements. It will always be the great city of that part of our country."

"What other big towns have you?"

"The most of our towns out there are small, but they grow rapidly. Calgary has now 10,000, and Edmonton, which is way up at the terminus of the railroads, has 10,000. One big city comes now in the East.蒙特利尔 is the largest, with 325,000, and Toronto is next, with perhaps 100,000 less. We are, however, just on the edge of a development."

**The Canada of the Future.**

"Yes, Mr. Hutchinson, but have you not been on the edge a long time? What are your population and area?"

"Our area is bigger than the whole United States, our population is now about 6,000,000. We are growing slowly, but the elements of our national make-up are better than yours. We are largely Anglo-Saxons, with a mixture of French, who are thrifty and easily governed. You have a large element from Southern Europe and

Eastern Europe, which is not so good. Many of your big cities are full of the German, Swedes, and so on. The whole country is a sheet of green. I have known of three wheat crops being planted in three successive years without plowing, although we do not advise that. The frost keeps thawing out for weeks and gives moisture to the fresh young wheat."

**What do you mean by Skis?**

"I mean Poles and Russians and people from Southeastern Europe. They are not the kind of immigration we are advertising, but they make up a large element of our people. We want Anglo-Saxons, Germans and Scandinavians, and we are getting them very rapidly. James J. Hill, one of our great railroad men, says he believes that within 50 years Canada will have a population of 50,000,000. It can easily support several times that number."

**Not for Annexation.**

"How about Canada becoming a part of the United States?"

"That will never come," said the Canadian Commissioner. "Our people don't want it. We are satisfied with our own government, and think in our own interest. We have invested in our railroads, mines, forests and fisheries, as well as in other things. There are a number of American stockraisers who have crossed over the border from Montana into Alberta to take advantage of the vast grazing ranges there. Some have shipped their cattle from Texas and Nevada to the prairies of the country. These, however, are invalids. They are not fit to travel. The most of the stockholders live in England."

**American Money in Canada.**

"There is much American money invested in Canada outside the farm lands."

"Yes, a great deal," was the reply.

"Your capitalists have invested in our railroads, mines, forests and fisheries, as well as in other things. There are a number of American stockraisers who have crossed over the border from Montana into Alberta to take advantage of the vast grazing ranges there. Some have shipped their cattle from Texas and Nevada to the prairies of the country. These, however, are invalids. They are not fit to travel. The most of the stockholders live in England."

**Canada at the World's Fair.**

In company with Mr. Hutchinson I took a walk through some of the Canadian departments at the Exposition here. That country has one of the best of the foreign exhibits, and best arranged. The grain interests are well displayed, as are also fish, game, fruits and minerals.

"What is the best breed of cattle?"

"All the best breeds," said Mr. Hutchinson.

"We would like to see the stock into the country."

"We have laws that bulls that are bad must be destroyed. We have laws for breeding purposes must be well bred and registered. The result is that we shall eventually have about the best cattle on this continent. We have as good as any on the average now."

**Canaada at the World's Fair.**

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**Fortunes in Asbestos and Nickel.**

"See those piles of asbestos; that is a great product of my country. We have the best and richest asbestos on earth, and we are furnishing 99 per cent of the world's supply. That pile of ore farther on is nickel. We have about 90 per cent of the world's supply. That pile of ore farther on is cobalt. We have about 90 per cent of the world's supply. That pile of ore farther on is manganese. We have about 90 per cent of the world's supply. That pile of ore farther on is chrome. We have about 90 per cent of the world's supply. That pile of ore farther on is iron. We have about 90 per cent of the world's supply. That pile of ore farther on is copper. We have about 90 per cent of the world's supply. That pile of ore farther on is lead. We have about 90 per cent of the world's supply. That pile of ore farther on is zinc. We have about 90 per cent of the world's supply. That pile of ore farther on is tin. We have about 90 per cent of the world's supply. 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