

# HOW CANADA DOES IT

By ELLIOTT FLOWER

ILLUSTRATIONS FROM PHOTOGRAPHS

**T**HE UNITED STATES has recently awakened to the fact that she is losing a great many desirable citizens. Canada knew it three or four years ago. We had the figures; but we failed to see the significance of them, and Canada did.

The aforesaid citizens that Uncle Sam has been, and is, losing, are of the north-west, for the most part; the greater number of them are farmers of experience. That is what makes them valuable. Uncle Sam does not care to part with capable and experienced agriculturalists. Up at Winnipeg they keep very accurate records relating to this subject, and these records show that he has lost over one hundred thousand annually during the last three years, and that the number is increasing each year. Uncle Sam is now giving thought to the matter of ways and means of keeping his farmers; and, since that is so, it may be well to investigate Canada's method of getting them.

Let us first consider the extent and nature of this movement of population, that we may judge of its present seriousness and possible future growth.

During the twelve fiscal years between April 1, 1900, and March 31, 1912, a total of 795,726 Americans, or an average of 66,310 per annum, have crossed the border and taken up their residence in Canada, and of this number 131,340 (about one-sixth of the total) made the change during the last one of these years, and 355,580 (approximately 45 per cent. of the total) during the last three years. This was a larger number of immigrants than Canada received from any other country whatsoever, and was over 41 per cent. of her total immigration during that period. Moreover, during at least a part of this time she was making a special effort to attract English settlers, and for that purpose was offering them opportunities that were open to no others; but, in spite of all, the immigration tables showed an ever-increasing preponderance of Americans.

Some of these are of the city riff-raff, of course, and some seek new fields merely because they have failed in the old ones; but the great majority are able and industrious men—merchants and mechanics as well as farmers—who are a decided acquisition to any country. And the movement is the more surprising because the United States is neither over-populated nor over-developed. Yet, Americans are flocking to Canada; and this emigration, while almost negligible, numerically, compared with the Castle Garden immigration, is significant because of its character,

are more opportunities in proportion to population for industrial development. Don't overlook the latter point! Too many people think of agricultural opportunities only, and there are many others.

Still, for the development of a country upon a sound basis you must get the farmer first. The others will then come fast enough. It is the farmer who builds the cities, even if he doesn't live in them, and sometimes he builds them too fast; that is, population and business increase faster than provision can be made to meet their growing needs. Edmonton has had a part of its population living in tents, even during the winter, for several years, owing to the fact that its numerical growth has been too rapid for its builders, and the housing problem has been a serious one with other towns and cities of western Canada—Calgary, Medicine Hat, Vancouver, Regina, Saskatoon, and even Winnipeg. The hotel situation is interesting in this connection. You can't be sure of a room in any town of importance between Winnipeg and Victoria, unless you engage it ahead by wire or mail. It seems impossible to build hotels fast enough in these places.

These conditions are due to the rapidity with which western Canada has been and is being developed, and this rapid development is the result of the most intelligent, earnest and effective campaign for population ever undertaken by any country. The campaign is of recent inception, however, and the more strenuous, probably, because of earlier indifference. There has been land for those who wished to take it on Government terms for many years; but it is only of late that any serious effort was made to induce them to take it. American immigration was so small as to be negligible up to 1898-9.

Canada welcomed those who came; but she extended no very cordial invitation to them to come. Now, she does; and she is getting both native and naturalized Americans. Her success, so far, has been the more noteworthy, because there have been serious obstacles to overcome. For instance, Canada's climatic reputation.

In the old days the Hudson Bay Company, desiring to keep the country for its own exploitation, encouraged, or at least did not discourage, the idea that it was a land of almost perpetual ice and snow; and the very first thing to be done, with a view to successful colonization, was to eradicate that impression. It was no easy task. Indeed, the impression still prevails in many minds, although, as a matter of fact, in climatic conditions a large part of western Canada compares more than favorably with many of our northern states. The chinook winds temper the win-

ter. She has propositions for all—the man with little and the man with much. During the last few years, she has made especial efforts to attract the man with a fair supply of ready cash, the man of experience who will accomplish the most with the least help; but the other is not forgotten. She offers everything from the raw land to the ready-made farm, from the natural conditions to irrigation, from the small fruit ranch to the big alfalfa and grain farms; and her terms vary to meet all reasonable conditions.

You may homestead 160 acres of land (if you are a Canadian or declare your intention to become one), and you may pre-empt additional adjoining land. You may also acquire land by purchase up to 640 acres. These are primarily Dominion government propositions; for the



Picking prunes in British Columbia

free homestead is not granted upon some provincial government lands, although they may be obtained by pre-emption.

The homestead cost is only the amount of the registration fee; but the homesteader must reside upon the land at least six months in every year and cultivate at least fifteen acres for three years before title passes to him. Pre-empted land must be paid for at the rate of one dollar an acre, with similar conditions as to residence and cultivation, and purchased land costs from five dollars to ten dollars an acre, according to its location and character; but the terms are very easy—in some cases no payment, except the registration and recording fees, is required for two years.

The widest range of conditions and prices, however, is found in the railroad and land company propositions, especially the former. This is due to the fact that private capital frequently does more in the way of preparing the land for the settler, and it is therefore possible to get farms and fruit ranches in all stages of improvement. The free homestead is lacking here, of course, as is also the requirement of intended citizenship; but a crop payment plan for some of the land has been devised that is easier than any other method of purchase. This calls for an initial cash payment of one-tenth the price of the land, after which the farm is practically worked on shares until paid for. The cost of land thus utilized may be only a few dollars an acre; but the prices range upward, through the various other colonization plans, until the irrigated and ready-made farm is reached on the one hand, and the irrigated and improved fruit ranch on the other.

For irrigation, of course, makes a difference in cost, and it is irrigation that is developing much of southern Alberta. Even in districts where it is not altogether necessary—where the rainfall is ordinarily sufficient—it makes all the difference between probability and certainty, in addition to increasing the productivity of the land; and in some districts it is recognized as a necessity.

This was so clearly seen in 1894 that the Dominion government withdrew from

## 150 Gifts To Women

Profit-Sharing Coupons

We have a new Premium List just from the press. It pictures 150 things wanted by women, children and men.

Anything shown in it can be paid for by coupons from packages of Mother's Oats.

Also by coupons from Mother's Wheat Hearts—the granulated white heart of the wheat.

Any Gift at Once Send Coupons Later

The book tells a plan by which any premium can be had at once. You can send the coupons later.

So you don't need to wait, as you used to wait, to save up enough of the coupons.

The premiums include

Fireless Cookers  
New Kitchen Utensils  
Lace Curtains—Linen  
Jewelry—Cameras  
Silverware—Chinaware  
Roller Skates, etc.

150 things like these are given free to our customers.

## Mother's Oats

is the highest grade of rolled oats, famous for 20 years.

Standard Size Package, 10c  
Family Size Package - 25c

Prices noted do not apply in the extreme West or South

Mother's Wheat Hearts is the finest granulated wheat cereal made from the white heart of the wheat.

Our way of winning users is to give them these premiums. That is our method of advertising.

There's a coupon in every package. And it gives back to our customers, in these useful premiums, about one-tenth of all they pay.

Thus you get these premiums, and you get at the same time the finest cereals any price can buy.

Send a Postal

Send us a postal with your name and address, and we will mail you this new book of gifts. Write now, please, before you forget it. Address

MOTHER'S OATS  
Railway Exchange Bldg., Chicago  
(315)



A battery of reapers, in the Bow River Valley, Alberta

What we receive from Europe, for the most part, is the raw material (not always the most promising) for citizenship in a land of opportunity, while what we are losing is the finished product.

Canada, especially western Canada, is the newer country in the sense that development upon any comprehensive scale has come much later; and, of course, that counts for a good deal. There is more land available for settlement, and there

ter, and even where the mercury does try to slip out of the bottom of the tube, the blizzards that we experience are usually lacking.

For rapid colonization, however, it is not enough merely to call attention, no matter how vociferously, to natural resources and advantages. That will help; but the natural opportunities must be supplemented by attractive propositions, and therein Canada has been particularly