

MANY THOUSANDS TO SEEK HOMES IN THIS COUNTRY

Col. A. D. Davidson Tells of Immigration to Come After the War

(Western Associated Press)

TORONTO, Nov. 18.—Col. A. D. Davidson, land commissioner of the Canadian Northern railway, stated in an interview yesterday the greatest flow of immigration in the history of Canada would commence with the close of the war. This opinion he based upon his recent observations in Great Britain where he was for many weeks, and upon his knowledge of the effects of other wars on migratory movements.

"After the Franco-Prussian war in 1870," said Col. Davidson, "there began a heavy procession of families and ex-soldiers from Germany to the United States. Militarism, then, as now, sent scores of thousands in search of a land where worthy ideals held sway, and the middle states benefitted very materially. Canada at that time was not, of course, in the eyes of the world as she is now. The French held to their own land with steadfast affection which has refused to recognize the lure of new homes in a new country. But the French peasant today must face a different problem. The devastation in the rich valleys where the troops are now fighting is near to absolute. Farm buildings and villages are razed to the earth. Churches and school houses are smoking ruins. Forests have been cleared away, roads blown up, almost every material thing about which associations cling exist no longer within the region of hostilities. When the war closes thousands of French farmers must face the question of starting life anew.

"I am convinced too that we shall add to the population many thousand Belgians."