

customed to, the modes of thought prevalent in this country, and the sooner they receive this training the better. The difficulties in the way are great owing to sparseness of settlement, but if the expense is greater than the pioneers should be expected to bear, the Dominion Parliament ought to come to their aid. The revenue from the sale of land goes into the Dominion treasury, and as the existence of schools is an inducement to immigrants, a portion of the public revenue from land sales might usefully be thus spent with a view to making the remainder of the land more salable.

Another desideratum is the organization of municipalities. **Foreigners** soon learn the value of citizenship when they find that it entitles them to exercise the privilege of taking part in the raising and spending of public money. Many of them have never had such a privilege before, and nothing will operate more effectively to dispel the socialistic ideas which they may have quite naturally imported with them from their former environments. Moreover, the problems of municipal government serve as an important educational instrument by affording perennial subjects of thoughtful conversation among neighbors, irrespective of racial differences.

But there is no necessity to overlook religion as an element in a high civilization. All historical experience goes to show that it is indispensable to human progress, and this country cannot be an exception in this respect. All non-denominational organizations, like the Bible Society, with purely altruistic and humanitarian aims, should be heartily supported with funds by those who have no opportunity to share otherwise in their work. The Churches in the older Provinces are doing much, but perhaps they could do more, especially in these times of material prosperity. In some parts of Manitoba and the Northwest themselves there are well-developed settlements able to aid in the good work of Canadianizing the communities farther west and north.

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#### SOCIOLOGY OF THE NORTHWEST.

Two commissioners appointed by the Bible Society to report on the Canadian northwest as a field of operations have brought back, after a personal visit, a very discouraging account of its sociological condition. Many of the foreign immigrants, especially from European countries, bring with them political and social ideals quite alien from those cherished in **Canada**, and if strenuous and persistent efforts are not put forth to promote the development among them of a thoroughly Canadian civilization, serious disadvantages, perhaps grave perils, may result. The commissioners deal with the matter largely from the standpoint of religion, but even if that be disregarded there are some aspects of the situation which have an interest for all thoughtful citizens as such.

One is the need of elementary education in the English language, especially for the rising generation. It is quite useless to expect Europeans to become Canadians if they are doomed to segregation on account of their ignorance of the speech of their neighbors. Only through it as a medium can they become acquainted with, not to say ac-