

WRITES OF SAULT CONDITIONS TO AN ENGLISH PAPER

Steelton Man Advises Caution in Coming to Canada Just Now.

THINKS CLOTHES TWICE AS DEAR

Englishmen Are Hated in Canada, He Says, and Cigarettes are 10d

The following letter to the West Cumberland Eng., Times, represents the views of an Englishman in Steelton. Some of our readers may not agree with it but in any case it is interesting.

"Dear Sir,—I was very much interested to notice in our local paper, "The Sault Star," that one of our fellowtownsmen had been writing to you re the good things that await the settler in Canada, in general, and the Soo in particular. Now it is quite true that a lot of what he said is all right but there was a lot left unsaid that knocks the gilt off the gingerbread. The most important thing, since he went into detail with regard to the high wages that are paid to workers in this town, is the cost of living, but I notice that he dismissed the question of the living with the curt remark, "The cost of living is slightly dearer."

"Well, I have had the matter over with a great number of people here since I left the old country and they all agree that the cost is from 70 to 100 per cent dearer here than in England, and that is the reason intending settlers should not be taken in with all that the booster tells them.

"I have not the least doubt that a large number of your readers have seen the articles which aroused so much controversy in "John Bull," and that they put them down to mere journalistic exaggeration. In the main the articles there were right and I have not the slightest doubt that their commissioners wrote of the conditions as they found them, and if a record of the people who came here, that is to Canada, and then returned home could be compiled that it would be an eye-opener.

It is true that there is a large steel works and iron works but what would it matter if there were 20 so long as they have sufficient men to work them. As a matter of fact there will be fewer men employed this time next year at the Steel Works and the Algoma Central Railway than there are now as the greater part of the work of construction will be completed.

"Now, as to the question of cost here, which we are told is only slightly dearer. A good suit, such as would be obtainable in England for about 55 shillings will cost from \$25 upwards, while a suit such as we can get in England for about £3 10s. would be at the very least \$30 and then it is very much open to question if the quality would be that which we usually expect in an English suit.

Meat, however, is about the same as over in England, but the quality unfortunately, is not. All the best stuff that is grown here, be it fruit or meat, are shipped to England and the things here are decidedly second quality in that line.

"At the present time eggs are 40c. per dozen, and when the lady gets a genuine fresh egg, she doesn't forget to remind you of that fact. Butter is now 40 cents per pound, and nearly everything else is correspondingly dear, and the Sault, I am told, by those who have travelled Canada over, is one of the dearest places that may be found.

"I should also like to say that the Englishman is hated in Canada. There is not the slightest doubt about that, and it falls to the lot of everyone to have that fact put to them in an unmistakable manner, which, however, we ignore after a short time. "No English need apply," is often seen in the papers.

"Again there are fancy pictures drawn of the cheap rides in sleighs at \$2 a day. I wish I knew a place where a sleigh could be had so cheaply. I have always paid \$2 for two hours, and I know that I am no exception to the rule.

"This place is deadly dull in the winter, and anything that is wanted in the amusement line has to be paid dearly for, and such shows would not attract a crowd of loafers at home.

"I should also like to mention that a tram ride cannot be had for less than 2½d any distance, but as the car line only runs from the east end of the town to the steel works it is not much use going the whole distance to have full value. I may say that there are cheap tickets to be had for the cars which work out at 2d. each, and that the large majority of the workers in the town (who work at one or other of the corporation works have to travel by car every day so that it will cost at the lowest from two to four shillings per week on that head alone.

I may also add that a hair-cut costs 1s. and a shave 10d. and that a shoe-shine, people here don't usually clean their own, will cost five cents for a pair of black and ten cents for a pair of brown; that the rent of a house worth living in cannot be had for less than £60 per year; and that the Canadians drink tea at every meal, as the water is so bad and risk of typhoid so great.

It is strange that the boosters do not mention these little facts which make all the difference in the world to emigrants. Probably a number of your readers will wonder what on earth a 'booster' is. Well, he is a man who is paid for the work of 'boosting' up a town or district, and as they will see he has indeed boosted the Soo with a vengeance. The