

EXPECT 500,000 NEW SETTLERS IN CANADA THIS YEAR

Col. A. D. Davidson Tells of New Country Now Being Opened Up.

BRITISH UNDERSTAND AFFAIRS OF CANADA

Believe in Loyalty of Dominion, but Regret Division Over Naval Details.

London, May 5.—More than at any previous period do the people of this country know about Canada, and seek to know more. The old time idea that British America was more or less a desert of ice and snow, as even Gladstone described it, is now smiled at. Even details of political affairs are fairly well known here. This is due, to some extent, to the work of Canadian propagandists, but also to the direct information received from those who have gone to Canada in droves during recent years. The pessimistic complaints of those who were failures at home and whiners in the new land have been drowned by the substantial evidence of others of the best class, who have re-discovered Canada. Indeed, there are Britons to-day who claim that they know the West of Canada better than the native-born Canadians do. The deadlock in the Canadian House of Commons on the question of naval contribution would have caused something like alarm a few years ago. Now it has little more effect than the introduction of a tail-twisting resolution in the United States Senate. The people here realize that Canadians appreciate the necessity for the Overseas Dominions showing that they are to be counted when the Empire is threatened. If they differ as to details, and carry that difference to the limit, the New World politics seem to demand, the people here do not lose sleep over it. Of course, it would have been pleasanter, and have greater immediate moral effect had Canada passed an Imperial defence resolution with a unanimous vote, moved by the Premier and supported by the leader of the Opposition. Then they may have fought over other matters of more local concern.

How Canada is Being Peopled.

Perhaps more attention is being directed towards the peopling of Canada by a high class of settlers. In this direction the statements made by Col. A. D. Davidson, Land Commissioner of the Canadian Northern Railway, who is here in connection with the lands, immigration and townsite work of his company, are read with much interest. He said:

"We are trying to get settlers of a desirable class. I am glad to say that those who have been coming into Canada lately have been of good quality, and should become excellent settlers. British settlers have been for some time now of a very good class, and, for the most part, settlers from the Old Country have been successful. No doubt the opportunities offered by the Canadian Government have proved attractive. The offer of 160 acres free is a splendid chance for a man with a limited income to acquire a good farm and home. We anticipate receiving this year a larger number of immigrants than we ever have received before in one year. I estimate that during the next twelve months Canada will get between 450,000 and 500,000 new settlers—40 to 50 per cent. of these will be from the United States, and the rest from Great Britain and the Continent. I may say that this is a greater number of newcomers than ever went into the United States in one year until after there were 40,000,000 people in that country. Canada, as you know, has at present only about 8,000,000. This shows that Canada has a much greater number to assimilate in proportion to population than the States ever had. Moreover, I think that we are getting a better class of settlers than ever went into any new country—better from the point of view of education and intelligence, and financial standing."

A Land of Security.

It is well said that the history of settlement in the Canadian West is very different from that of the Western States. It was a chapter of almost unbroken peace and good order. The sense of security enjoyed by newcomers in Canada means a great deal, and there is no doubt that herein to American settlers lies an additional attraction in Canada. The American finds it difficult to believe that anyone can live under a better government than his own, but when he once understands conditions in Canada, there is no one more ready to appreciate them, and to publish their opinions to his friends. And when setting forth the American's especially, Canada's advantages one must not forget to place in the front rank the great advantage of the security of life and property, and of the respect in which law and order are held.