

spontaneous movement is furnishing the Canadian west with an excellent class of immigrants, who will counteract the influence and help in the assimilation of the many Europeans who have made Canada their home.

THE GROWTH OF THE WEST.

Manitoba and the Territories are certain to enjoy their share of the growing time during the present season. The tide of immigration is setting toward the wheat lands of the prairies from many quarters, and in a comprehensive estimate Commissioner McCreary forecasts the influx for the year at 75,000. The Winnipeg Free Press has compiled information from many sources, showing the attractiveness of the Canadian west and the class of immigrants seeking homes there at the present time. A great many settlers from North Dakota and from Ontario and the older Provinces will buy land in the settled portion of Manitoba if the owners do not raise the price too high. The present rush recalls the days of the Winnipeg boom, when many people in the new-born town could not find accommodation in the houses and were forced to live in tents. At Ponoka, a place between Wetaskiwin and Lacombe, on the Calgary & Edmonton Railway, there was not a house within a mile a year ago, but there is now a town of about 500 or 600 people, with three stores, a blacksmith shop and schoolhouse and other buildings to correspond, and the rush of settlers is so great that people are sleeping in the church, the schoolhouse, in stores and tents. Commissioner McCreary, in an interview on the immigration outlook, said that the homestead entries so far show an increase over last year, which was the highest year on record, of about 30 per cent.; and as the lands for homesteading are becoming more inaccessible and of an inferior class, this will indicate that the immigration is going to be 30 per cent., if not more, of an increase over last year. Very little foreign immigration, Mr. McCreary says, is coming to the country from Europe; but the British immigration has shown up much better than in any season during the last four years; while that from the United States is unprecedentedly large. The great rush is to northern Alberta over the "Soo" line. It is expected that fully 20,000 people will settle in Alberta this year from the United States alone. Mr. J. W. Christie, writing from Exeter, Neb., estimates that 500 families, which would be equivalent to 2,500 people, will locate at one point, Ponoka, by the 1st of September next.

Five thousand people, it is estimated, will go into southern Alberta and settle in the ranching districts in the vicinity of Cardston, Lethbridge and Pincher Creek. The next largest number will likely go to districts on the Long Lake road, between Saskatoon and Prince Albert. The immigration authorities also expect 8,000 or 10,000 people to settle in the Moose Mountain district and along the "Soo" line between Hallbrite and Milestone. Twenty men from North Dakota have just gone to Weyburn, where the nucleus of a settlement was formed last year. A number of farmers who settled at Sintaluta some fifteen years ago are removing to that district; among them is an old gentleman, 75 years of age, who is taking up a second homestead. Speaking of the demand for labor, Mr. McCreary said that he had then on his books applications for about a hundred experienced men and a hundred inexperienced men, but that it was simply impossible to fill them. Seventy-five English people arrived one day, and among them were ten young men who were placed at once, but there have been more since. Only foreigners, Doukhobors, Galicians and others, are to be had, and they want good wages. Not an Ontario man has applied for work; \$26 a month does not appear to be any inducement at all. The Free Press reproduces from The Calgary Herald a long list of settlers arriving at that city and seeking homes in various parts of Alberta. These are from the Dakotas, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota and Michigan, as well as from older Canada and Great Britain. Many of the arrivals bring valuable stock and effects, and are equipped for entering upon the business of prairie farming on an extensive scale. During the month of March 20,000 worth of settlers' effects were cleared at the Calgary custom house, and the number of immigrants arriving exceeded the record for any single month in the history of the town. Some Ontario newspapers are quoted by The Free Press to show that the people of older Canada are finding needed scope in the west, but the most striking feature of immigration is the large proportion from the western States. This