

dear. The Gospel of Christ has not cleared the way and laid the foundations. But great as has been their immigration it has never in any decade during the past hundred years exceeded an average of one per cent. per annum of their population, and in no year has it exceeded more than about one and a half per cent. In Canada during the five years from 1901 to 1906 our average annual immigration exceeded two and a quarter per cent. of our population, and during the year 1907 it was between four and five per cent. In proportion to our population we received in the year 1907 about three times as many immigrants as the United States received in any year of its history. The United States had a population of over 20,000,000 before the people of that country were called upon to receive and bring into touch with their American and Christian ideals as many immigrants as we were called upon to receive and endeavor to assimilate in the year 1907.

Let us not forget that the immigrants are not coming to us like pilgrims to New England for "freedom to worship God, but solely to improve their material condition, and naturally their dominant thought and great objective is their own material advancement. We are supplying them with lands, homes and all kinds of opportunities for material well-being, but we must ever remind ourselves, "Man cannot live by bread alone." The peril of these new communities is that in the effort to gain the world they lose their souls. What are we doing to supply their deeper needs—those unseen things that abide and are eternal? The supreme question in Canada to-day is, What will be the religious life of these new communities? The Churches must act now. Our whole future depends on what the Churches do now. Was there ever given to the Churches of any land a greater opportunity and a graver responsibility?

All our Churches are seeking to meet the needs of these settlers, but so far none of them have been able to satisfactorily overtake what they deem to be their share of this work—that is, either to supply a sufficient number of properly qualified men, or to provide adequate means for their support. In the new and sparsely settled districts, there is unfortunately an amount of overlapping and duplicating of work by the different denominations, which should be avoided and by a display of Christian co-operation and practical business common sense could be avoided with great advantage to the communities served, and to the Churches concerned, by releasing men and money for needed work elsewhere. But, after making