

## Immigration

The President of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the General Manager of the Bank of Montreal are both emphatic in stating that immigration is very necessary to develop Canada if she is to pay off her huge war debt, and place her national undertakings on a paying basis. On the other hand the government, largely at the request of organized labor, is inclined to restrict immigration, at least for a time, until more normal industrial conditions prevail. So far as the cities and towns are concerned it would be suicidal to encourage immigration for it would mean an augmentation to the already too large army of unemployed, but in the rural districts immigration is badly wanted. The difficulty is to conduct immigrants right on to the land. This is not done under our present immigration policy, which is simply to give a cursory examination at the ports of embarkation and then leave the immigrants to shift for themselves as best they can. The consequence is that every eastern port is full of foreign colonies that are a menace to the community life of the municipalities in which they are domiciled. These same men and women if they had been intelligently directed on their first landing in Canada would to-day be doing useful productive work on the land.

We would commend to the government the excellent New Zealand system of immigration by which a government official travels on every boat leaving Europe for New Zealand. This official during the voyage becomes acquainted with every immigrant—

finds out exactly what he or she is best fitted for, so that on arrival in New Zealand the settler is sent direct to that part of the country where he wanted. No waiting around the ports—no unemployment. If Canada would adopt some such sane system as New Zealand has, the farmer would get his labor, the immigrant would be grateful and labor would be satisfied—and there would be no slums in our cities, at least they would not become worse than what they are.

But there is another phase of our immigration policy that wants changing if Canada is to get the full benefit of her immigrants, and particularly her foreign immigrants—who should and would make desirable citizens if the Federal authorities would but realize their responsibility in the matter. We refer to naturalization. Under the present system the only condition of naturalization is four years residence in Canada. This is not enough. There should be a simple educational test in either English or French, failing which the foreigner should be deported after a period of five years from the date of arrival. This is the only logical way to inculcate that Canadian spirit into the foreign-born, that is so necessary if this country is to progress along the right lines. Surely this is not asking too much of those who seek the asylum of Canada, where they get privileges unknown in the countries they come from.

## Governmental Liquor Trading and the Municipalities

In the Province of British Columbia part of the profit to be derived from the liquor business of the government is to be given over to the municipalities. This is as it should be, for it is the municipalities that have to suffer whatever ill effects result from the business, and it is certain they have to provide the protection and much of the necessary machinery for its control.

In the Province of Quebec legislation has just been enacted by which the government, through a Commission, is to carry on the business of liquor dealing in those municipalities that desire it. With the Commission controlling the sale and the purity of the liquor—a great improvement on the system of limited prohibition which has been in force for two years—it is expected that not only will drunkenness be reduced to a minimum, but that the traffic in bootlegging whiskey and other poisonous liquors will be done away with altogether. But though a huge turnover is expected, which means an extra good profit to the province, no provision has been made as yet to turn over any of the revenue to the municipalities. Of course, no one knows what the net revenue will be, and possibly the government is waiting for a period to pass to see what will happen before declaring its plans regarding the division of the profits, but it is to be hoped that the municipalities will benefit—financially.

There are those who would object to the communities deriving any returns from the sale of

“strong waters.” They argue that any money so received is “blood money” and therefore would be a curse to the community. The answer to such an argument may be given in the words of the late General Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, who when once remonstrated with for allowing his people to go into saloons and collect from the customers said, that “however dirty the money may be when the Army received it, it was soon made clean in the work of charity.” If then in the administration of a trade—which experience tells us is one that if not carried on legally, with all the safeguards possible for its proper control, will be carried on illegally—certain profits are made, it is only right that these profits be used for the benefit of the community. In Sweden this principle—or policy—is adopted in the sale of all intoxicating liquors, by practically every community in the country. The result is that whereas Sweden was, before the adoption of the system, one of the most drunken countries in Europe, and consequently in the world, it is to-day the most sober. What is more, the revenue derived from the sale of liquor is sufficient in many of the municipalities to reduce local taxes to a very small amount.

Should for any reason prohibition fail in the other seven provinces it is to be hoped that the trade will be kept in the hands of the government—that it will never get into private hands again. Improvements must go on and there is no reason why liquor should not be made to pay for them.