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TOPICS OF THE TIME

How the Nation Grows

EVERYONE knows now that Canada is growing. Even the doubters of a few years ago have been convinced in the face of facts and figures, which are proving their point year after year. It is no longer quite so necessary as it was to call attention to the evidences of national growth; but there is one set of figures which, once a year, gives most interesting light on the progress actually being made. These are the immigration returns, the census of each year's new population.

For the last fiscal year, which ended on June 30th, the arrivals in Canada from other countries numbered 130,328, a gain of 2,000 over the previous year. These new settlers came, as usual, from widely separated points, and represented a great variety of racial types. The official returns give the following division:

	1903-4	1902-3
British Isles.....	50,915	41,792
Continent of Europe and Miscellaneous	36,241	37,099
United States	43,173	49,473

The increase over the previous year is a comparatively small one, but the important feature is that the high rate of immigration is being maintained, with some gain each year. A steady flow of settlers is better than a spasmodic rush; the country receives it better, and conditions reach the sooner a

permanent basis. There has been little of the boom tendency in Canadian immigration, and it is encouraging to know that the policy which is being followed is meeting with so good results.

One of the most noteworthy features of last year's figures is the increase in the number of British immigrants, who exceeded those of the year previous by 9,000. A great share in this large movement from England and Scotland is due to the active campaign conducted by the Emigration Office in London. Our new British settlers are a good class. There are usually in every arrival from the Mother Country a certain number of would-be settlers whose ideas and qualifications are both meagre, but their unfitness soon wears off and they become good citizens. Even better, as a rule, because they already have a closer acquaintance with the conditions of pioneer life, are the people who come to us from the American West. Of these there were fewer in 1903-4, owing, the Department of the Interior thinks, to the late spring of the present year, which prevented many from moving their families into Canada. Moreover, an active campaign is being carried on in the western states by American land agents, representing southern colonization companies, and these have done something to counteract Canada's attractions. May there not be a hint in this to the Canadian Government to increase its efforts?