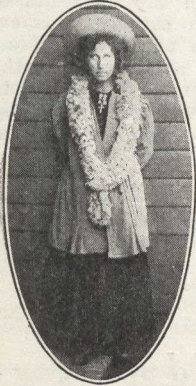


Canadianizing the New-comer

"When the United States Close Their Gates, Canada Will Face the Deluge"

CANADA occupies most of the northern half of the continent of North America, and embraces within its boundaries 3,745,574 square miles. It stands midway between the civilizations of the East and West. It is the channel of communication between Europe and Asia. Its position is strategic.



Icelandic.

Its frontiers are the longest and most exposed in the British Empire. It has resources in farm lands, mineral rock, forests and waterways; in agricultural, industrial and commercial opportunities unsurpassed, and probably unequalled by any other similar area on the surface of the globe. Its population is comparatively meagre, but its people are energetic and ambitious, and have determined to give practical effect to the assertion of one of our leading statesmen that the "twentieth century belongs to Canada." Before the South African War the people of Canada were either English, Scotch, Irish or French, or the descendants of these nationalities; but to-day we are "Canadians," and Canada is "our country." We are no longer satisfied with a colonial status, but are rapidly assuming the attributes and responsibilities of nationhood. We are proud of our lineage, our institutions and our inheritance, and prouder still of the fact that we form no small part of the greatest empire in the world's history.

"Four nations welded into one, with long historic past,
Have found, in these our western wilds, one common life at last;
Through the young giant's mighty limbs, that stretch from sea to sea,
There runs the throb of conscious life, of waking energy."

Canada is a magnet of wonderful power, whose bigness, wealth, position and character make it irresistible to the restless and energetic of the world's peoples. The tide of humanity flowing to its shores presents a source of energy that bespeaks for the future undreamed-of possibilities in nation building, and at the same time creates in the minds of thinking people a deep concern regarding the safety of the institutions which our forefathers established at tremendous cost.

IMMIGRATION was always a factor of importance in the world's progress. Teutonic, Vandal and Hunnish migrations figured largely in early history, but they were movements of whole peoples, while to-day immigration is individual, not tribal or national, and is, therefore, much greater and far more rapid. It must not be assumed that the tide of immigration, aggregating approximately 1,500,000 a year, which is flowing to this continent is depleting the population of the old world. In general terms it may be stated that the excess of births over deaths in European countries is twice as great as the annual exodus. The tide may, therefore, continue to flow with undiminished force for an indefinite period. For this reason we cannot be too careful in fixing the standards governing the admission of Europeans to this country. So long as Britons and northwestern Europeans constitute the vast majority there is not so much danger of losing our national character. To healthy Britons of good behaviour our welcome is everlasting; but to make this country a dumping ground for the scum and dregs of the old world means transplanting the evils and vices that they may flourish in a new soil.

Since 1882 the immigration flowing into the United States has changed from the progressive and enlightened people of northwestern Europe to those of the south and east. Nearly 80 per cent. of the immigration of the United States consists of peasantry, scarcely a generation removed from serfdom, and comes from Austria-Hungary, Italy, Poland and Russia. More than one-half their total population is foreign born, and the very foundations of their civilization are threatened with destruction. The United States has long ceased to be British in sentiment or ideals. These are facts that Canadians should ponder seriously. When the United States finally close their gates against the immigrant, as they are certain to do soon, Canada will face the deluge.

It is a mistake to assume that the four hundred thousand people a year who are coming to Canada—except, perhaps, the Russian Jews—are seeking primarily religious and civil liberty. The amount of sentimental gush that has been written by well-intentioned people, emphasizing this point, is not only misleading, but suggests characteristics of the immigrants which are not according to the facts. The reason for the coming of the vast majority is

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the hope of bettering their condition. They believe that in Canada they can make money easier and more rapidly, and can escape from the restrictive conventionalities of the old world. It was a serious blunder on the part of the immigration authorities to offer as an inducement to certain religious sects in Europe, residence in Canada with exemption from military service. No one who accepts the privileges of Canadian citizenship should be allowed to shirk his civil and military responsibilities.

It is officially asserted that Canada advertises only for farmers, farm labourers, female domestic servants, and these are the only classes who are guaranteed employment on arrival. In 1912-13 there were 114,573 farmers and farm labourers, and 28,872 female domestics, or a little over one-quarter of the total number admitted. The Canadian Governments—Federal and Provincial—seek immigration from the British Isles, the United States and certain continental countries, such as France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark (including Iceland), Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Germany. Canada does not seek the immigration of southern Europeans or Asiatics of any race. Those who come to Canada from such countries are attracted by the industrial conditions here, or are induced to come by employers of labour, such as railway contractors. Through the advertising campaign conducted so ably by the immigration authorities the people of the United States and Europe are learning a very great deal about this country. Canada is said to be the best advertised country in the western hemisphere; but what are we going to do with nearly 300,000 people a year who are not interested in agriculture or domestic service?

The magnitude of the problem of assimilation may be estimated from the fact that only in one decade between 1800 and 1900 did the immigration of the United States equal the present immigration into Canada. The American Republic was unable, with a population of 75,000,000, to assimilate between 200,000 and 300,000 a year, and since their population has passed the 80,000,000 mark their immigration has increased from 300,000 to 1,000,000 a year with no better results. Yet Canada, with less than 8,000,000, is attempting to assimilate 400,000 a year.

There is another phase of this problem equally perplexing. Notwithstanding the fact that the efforts of the Canadian Government are, as we have seen, directed toward securing farmers and farm labourers, we are not increasing the proportion of our people on the land. A comparison of rural and urban population in the United States and Canada will show that the tendencies to crowd the cities and magnify all the evils of congested districts are practically the same in the two countries. In 1910 53.7 per cent. of the population of the United States was rural and 46.3 urban. In 1911 the Canadian population was distributed in the proportion of 5.4 per cent. rural and 45.6 per cent. urban. The increase in food prices in the United States was 29 per cent., and in Canada 27 per cent. Students of economics and social science are agreed that a nation desiring permanence and stability cannot afford to increase its urban at the expense of its rural population. Only a few years ago 75 per cent. of Canada's people were living on the land, or were identified with agricultural pursuits. To-day conditions are changing with great rapidity.

A STATE cannot accept an excessive influx of people without injury. It is not necessary to recount all the racial, social and economic changes that have taken place because of the immigration into the United States. Everyone knows that they have been not only fundamental, but far-reaching, and are to-day causing the more public spirited of the citizens of the neighbouring Republic very grave concern. What has happened in the United States during a century appears likely to happen in Canada in a few short years. We are introducing into our population elements that are wholly at variance with the people who have made this Dominion what it is. Fortunately 75 per cent. of the new-comers speak English, but the remainder presents a problem with which we must grapple or we shall find the language question alone a menace to our future peace. The non-English-speaking immigrants are in most cases illiterate, and have minds that are unresponsive to Canadian sentiment. Their tendency is to form colonies and establish on Canadian soil their own customs, methods and traditions. The granting of the franchise to these groups only serves to encourage corruption in political matters, endangering the interests of good government. The serious character of the problem may be stated thus: if we do not Canadianize and Christianize the new-comer, he will make us foreigners and heathen on our own soil and under our own flag. If British institutions mean anything they stand for the championship of Christian civilization. If the foundation principles underlying our institutions are to be ignored and set aside by the illiterate foreigner who has no conception of the character

or purpose of the ideals governing our race, we are taking hazardous risks. Material prosperity may be desirable, but are we not making too great a sacrifice to bring it about? It seems that Canada is undertaking to solve a problem that has never been successfully worked out by any people heretofore. We



More Immigrants Come to Canada in a Year Now Than Used to Enter the United States When That Country Had Over 50,000,000 Population.



English—But Now in the Small Minority of Canadian Immigrants.



Belgians Who Must Be Canadianized—in More Ways Than by Learning to Grow Wheat.

must not only Canadianize the new-comer, but we must check the tide of immigration until we are better prepared to deal with it.

The records of our criminal courts, asylums, hospitals and charitable institutions indicate in a most striking manner the absolute necessity of exercising greater care in selecting the new-comers. We are paying vast sums annually in controlling and assisting people who have no claims on us. Instead of bonusing the steamship companies to secure immigrants we shall soon be obliged to follow the exam-