

The Stream of Immigration

THE indications seem already sufficient to warrant the prediction that the rush to the Canadian North-West will exceed that of 1903, which so far holds the record in Canadian immigration. A slight falling off during January and February was due to unusually severe weather. With regard to immigration from the States, a new drawback may be experienced in the alarm felt by Americans at the great stream of immigration from over the line.

It is stated that settlers are passing through the most desirable free lands in the United States to reach Canada, and also that the movement has assumed too large proportions to be calmly tolerated.

These American settlers have an experience, and a ready, intelligent grasp of the situation, which places them in strong contrast with the foreigner, who has to be trained and taught to assimilate.

Nearly four thousand European immigrants entered the Dominion by way of Halifax alone during part of March. These were far above the average who land at American ports of entry. The *Philadelphia Public Ledger* says: "Canada is wont to complain that she is buffeted by fate, is a step-daughter of the British Empire, the victim in all controversies, but in gaining new citizens she is leading the world—not in quantity, but in quality."

A Problem of Citizenship

THE following estimate was recently made by the *Wall Street Journal* with regard to the effect of illiterate immigration upon the standards of citizenship in the United States. With a large foreign population pouring into our country, the subject promises to become of interest to Canadians:

"Instead of the recent immigration from the southern part of Europe leading to increased criminality and ignorance, the statistics show that these immigrants are less liable to become a burden upon the public, and are less addicted to crime than those from northern Europe. The illiteracy among persons born in the United States of foreign parents is much less than among those born of American parents, which

shows that the danger of immigration on the side of ignorance is much less than had been supposed.

"From these considerations it is not reasonable to conclude that the time has yet arrived to put up the bars against immigration. The demand to do so comes chiefly from those who would be glad to create a monopoly of labor in the United States.

"If there is not a demand for the labor of these immigrants, they soon find it out and stop coming. When there is a demand for them they arrive in large numbers. The problem is largely one of distribution."

A Good Market for Canada

THE tour of the recently appointed trade commissioner to Japan through a number of Canadian cities has again directed attention to our opportunities in the far East.

The following are a few of the products which might with profit be exported to Japan: flour, cured meats, fish, paper and pulp, cottons, woollens, rubber goods, sewing machines, plated ware, nails, wire, hand tools, lumber, furniture, pianos, organs, hides and leather.

The Japanese are already considerable buyers of these articles, and a little well-directed effort might lead to greatly increased trade with Canada.

Japan is at present in the midst of great social and economic changes. The progress made during the last few years has been marvellous. Old customs are rapidly disappearing before European ideas and manners. At one time they used scarcely any furniture, such as we are accustomed to, requiring neither chairs, tables, nor beds. The Japanese have always shown a ready appreciation of European music and musical instruments, which has created a good market for these.

There is also a considerable demand for bicycles, and, with the rapid adoption of European inventions, the market for all such commodities promises to constantly increase.

The effect of the war upon trade with Japan will, no doubt, be to increase the demand for most goods, especially food stuffs. Trade will, of course, be uninterrupted, since there is no war in Japan.