

openings in our industries and our general attitude toward immigrants. We have gone abroad to advertise our country that men from other lands might be attracted to it. Our motives for doing so cannot furnish matter for reproach. It is an honest conviction that an influx of foreign elements will permit a more rapid development of resources, will stimulate our industries.

Our propaganda, too, has not been barren of results. From countries in which conditions are hard and political freedom unknown, men and women have come to Canada to settle our vacant lands, to help in industrial development, to take part in national life. In our cities there is a large foreign element. The prairies are dotted with the shack of the newcomer to our country. To our population, in short, has been added thousands, who are absorbed into national life to our benefit and an improvement of their own circumstances. And so far the results of Canadian immigration policy have been good. The influx of Orientals, however, and the expression of feeling against them, have served to raise the question of assimilation. If the stream of immigrants continues to gain in force will the tone of our civilization not be lowered? It seems impossible to doubt that our capacity for absorbing or assimilating the members of alien races is limited. If they enter our country without restriction in time they will constitute the dominant element and their laws and institutions and customs will find root in Canadian soil. We are willing to accept the best elements of old-world experience, but we are unwilling to accept the habits or ideals of many of the foreigners who settle here. To the immigrant who is sober and industrious, discards the traditions of his native land in so far as they delay assimilation, and tries to merge his interests with ours, we should extend every privilege of Canadian citizenship. Moreover, to the best type of immigrant we may properly extend friendly welcome. Every new hand to the wheel of progress counts. Moral and intellectual greatness rest to some extent on a physical basis that can only be set by a strong, virile population.

The present situation then suggests the necessity for consideration of the results of our immigration policy. If we are not getting the right type of foreigner, or if we are getting more than we can assimilate without corruption of our standards then the gates must be closed against the inflowing tide. Circumstances appear to at least dictate caution and moderation in inducements offered to prospective immigrants.

The United States during the past year added almost two million people to its population. In the cities of this country 29 per cent. of the people are foreign-born. The tide of immigrants flows into the centres of population, finds immediate employment there and in time spreads out with some evenness over the country. If the experience of our neighbors is worth anything we may gain from it some suggestion regarding our powers of assimilation. It will be some years before we can properly Canadianize an annual addition of 1,500,000 to our population.