

SOME THOUGHTS ON IMMIGRATION.

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ber is that it is not wealth nor power that determines our future, but the character of the citizens we create. How are we facing this biological problem involved in immigration? We admit within the boundaries of our land peoples from every nation under the sun, and at first we erect barriers between them and ourselves, but sooner or later these disappear and we find that, in spite of antipathies to racial mixtures the newcomers have become naturalized, then land-owners, and finally have taken our children or our children's children in marriage. An American writer on this subject says: "From the amalgamation of good races, good results may be expected, but fusion with inferior races, while it may help to raise the lower race, will pull the higher one down." Now, no race has a monopoly of good qualities so we have no right to assume that in all respects we are superior to other races, but we have the privilege of determining who shall be admitted to our country, and how many allowed to share it with us. In the face of the foreign invasion which is likely to sweep over our land, in the very near future, selective immigration is the most important problem to be dealt with by those of us who look to the future welfare of our country. President Roosevelt, when strongly advocating a great movement for the conservation of the natural resources of the United States maintained that selective immigration was second only to conservation in its importance for the well-being and prosperity of future generations.

Restrictive Measures.

Experience has taught us here, as it did the people of the neighboring republic, the necessity of placing restrictions on immigration. The present Immigration Act prohibits the entry into the country of all persons mentally or physically defective, criminals, prostitutes and anyone suffering from a loathsome or dangerous contagious disease. This is as it should be, but do we show wisdom in the choice of persons otherwise eligible? Statistics show that in New York, in crimes of violence kidnapping and blackmailing, the Italians lead. In crimes such as robbery, larceny and receiving stolen goods, the Russians and Poles are conspicuous. And in white slavery and prostitution the Hebrews are prominent. I wonder if other large cities would show similar conditions. Of course, cities on the Pacific coast are troubled with illicit drug selling and gambling, but these crimes are laid at the door of the Chinese.

Canadian Immigration "Facts and Figures" show that the largest number of immigrants come to Canada from the very countries of the peoples mentioned above. Italians, 121,507; Russians 97,264; Hebrews, 76,114; Chinese, 37,913; and Poles, 36,265. It is impossible to say to what extent these particular crimes in these races can be regarded as due to bad heredity, and to what degree it is the result of bad education and environment. No race can lay claim to perfection. We produce our own criminals as well as import them.

Must Select Carefully.

But the statistics given above prove the necessity of greater carefulness in the selection of aliens presenting themselves at our portals for admission, and the necessity of excluding more effectively those who are likely to cause a deterioration in the future citizens of this land.

Japanese Good Record.

During an interview with the authorities in Vancouver, the question, "Which alien countries provided us with the least criminals? Which are the most advanced from the standpoint of cleanliness? Which are the most law-abiding and make the best citizens?" brought the answers, "Japan and the Japanese." Surely there are some countries in the West from which we could attract immigrants whose reputation would equal that of those who come from the Far Eastern Island Empire! It will be remembered that after the war

broke out, England received into her bosom, with a generous lack of discrimination, a large number of refugees, amongst whom were many criminals. Mr. Harry Wilson, a well-known lawyer, who has appeared in many of the most remarkable trials of the past generation, made the following statement: "I do not wish to particularize the countries which enjoy the unenviable distinction of being the birthplaces of these human pests, but I should like to say that during thirty years' experience in criminal courts I have never yet seen a Japanese in the criminal dock." The Japanese population in England is never at any time very great, but nearly 20,000 have been admitted into Canada, and we find that they have here, too, practically the same admirable record. How many of us really know why the Japanese have desired to emigrate to Canada? It is an attractive, healthful and beautiful country, the climate in British Columbia is not unlike their own. Many Japanese who came in the early days have made good homes and the relatives now seek admission. But these are only minor reasons.

Land Monopoly and Land Hunger.

The real one is found in the question of "Land monopoly and land hunger," or the question of the distribution of the world's habitable surface among the nations or races. As the art of navigation developed into a high degree of efficiency, the ends of the earth were brought together, and Europeans, through exploitation and conquest, took to themselves the continents and islands of the world. Today almost nine-tenths of the land area of the world is occupied or controlled by the Caucasian race. They number about 625,000,000, but they have under their control no less than 46,000,000 square miles of territory. Asia has a population of over 918,000,000, and yet they control only a little less than 7,000,000 square miles, because India, Tonking, Cochin China, Cambodia, Annam, Tibet, Hongkong, Macao and other Asiatic territories have passed under the sway of Caucasian peoples. Of course Asiatics continue to occupy the places mentioned, but the European controllers, by reason of their priority and their wealth, have so firmly intrenched themselves that non-Caucasian outsiders have small chance of competing with them in commercial enterprises.

Leaving colonies out of the question, the most densely populated colonial nations are Belgium with 659 inhabitants to the square mile, Holland with 474, England with 370, Japan with 356, Italy with 316, Germany with 310, and France with 193. But these European countries have extensive colonies with vast unoccupied areas to receive their surplus population, which also contain abundant natural resources to be utilized for the benefit of the mother lands. Whilst Japan shelters 356 people per square mile in a land, the geological formation of which is such that only 16 per cent. of the total area is fit for cultivation and over 70 per cent. is mountain and forest.

A Serious Problem.

It is true that Japan recently acquired 95,700 square miles of colonial territory, but these lands are already thickly pop-

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