

## Preface.

---

FEW public questions, if any, are more important to a new country than how to increase and how to retain its population. The labours of Canada in this respect have been compared to the occupation of the daughters of a certain mythological king, who were popularly supposed to have spent the greater portion of their lives in pouring water through a sieve; and we cannot deny that while we have been pouring into the top of the reservoir, we have not been careful to watch or counteract the real causes of drainage from the bottom. To the lack of co-operative sympathy between the departments of our Government and the sacrifice of public to party interest, assisted, no doubt, by our peculiar geographical position, this evil must be attributed.

Canada has shared the experience of all the British colonies in the disproportion of the cost of immigration to results; and public appreciation of this fact has been shown by the substantial decrease in the Dominion grants for immigration purposes.

And yet, the great importance of successful colonization from Great Britain to Canada would not appear, now, to be any less appreciated on either side of the Atlantic, if we may judge from the recent remarks of the Regius Professor of History at Cambridge University, the President of the Bank of Montreal, and others, who have expressed themselves on the subject.

Professor Seeley, writing under the head of "Greater Britain," says:—

"When we speak of over-population, of exhaustion, of the decrepitude of an old country, is it not evident that the framework of our thoughts is always the British Isles, that the Straits of Dover and the narrow seas limit our view? Should we not otherwise say that England is, for the most part, very thinly peopled and very imperfectly developed, a young country, with millions of acres of virgin soil