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Influx of Britishers Into Canada After the War.

The writer of this memorandum believes that the current of immigration to Canada from Britain will be largely increased in the first few years after this war. This opinion is based on actual experience in South Africa during and after the Boer War. For some years the country was flooded with immigrants from Britain, whom, owing partly to the presence of negro labor, and partly to want of adequate preparation, it was quite unable to absorb. A serious condition of unemployment was the result. Thousands left South Africa impoverished and embittered against the country. Finally the coast colonies closed their ports to all who were not possessed of a certain sum (£20 or £25 in cash, I think). In Britain the working class felt that the country upon which £250,000,000 and 50,000 lives had been spent was closed to the poor. It was from this failure to absorb the tide of British immigration that the disfavor with which South Africa is still viewed largely dates.

The cause of such migration is moral rather than economic. War, in accustoming large masses of men to a life of adventure in the open air, so changes their habits that they shrink from returning to the office and factory. Clerks who have been to the front in this war have told me that they will never be able to return to the desk. Inevitably they will look to Canada as the nearest and easiest country in which to settle.

For obvious reasons Britain will do its best to retain this population. In many cases, however, nothing short of a prohibition to leave the country will avail to stop the emigration of discharged soldiers. In countries like Austria and Germany such