

Canada's Immigration Problem

THE NEW ECONOMICS—OVER-POPULATION AND UNDER-DEVELOPMENT—HUMAN VALUES

By C. W. Peterson

ARTICLE 3

IF we capitalize that portion of the national income which is ascribable to human effort it is found to be from six to eight times all property values. Even the staggering amount of life insurance in force is only a fraction of this capitalized value. We may, therefore, readily conclude that Canada's "vital" asset is easily her greatest. A study of the economic value to Canada of a new settler is illuminating. Incidentally it is shown that over \$163,000,000 have been brought to this country in cash and effects by immigrants. This new wealth has played its important part in the development of the country. Prof. Irving Fisher calculates that the capitalized productive value of the average individual to the state is \$3,000. The new-born child has a money value of \$95, the value increasing to \$4,000 by 20 years of age, and dropping to \$2,000 at 60, according to accepted calculations.

The recent European war and its aftermath brought home to the world a multitude of strange economic facts, many of them as the hills, but up to that time wholly unrecognized. One of the outstanding lessons taught mankind was that there is absolutely no limit to the amount of work to be done in this world, or to the amount of business to be developed. The truth is that over-production is theoretically inconceivable. The purchasing ability of every country lies primarily in its own power of production, and the more each country produces, the greater may be its trade with other countries. The more they all produce together, the greater the variety of comforts and necessities available for the world's population. Even in the most prosperous countries multitudes are living in a perpetual state of bare subsistence. We have not even approached within measurable distance of satisfying resupplying human wants alone over-producing them.

UNBALANCED PRODUCTION

What Canada, and many other countries, has suffered from during recent years and what has given rise to general unemployment, is not necessarily over-population, but unbalanced production. While Canada's urban and rural populations have been unequally distributed, our aggregate working force has been, and still is, vastly below our minimum, urgent, national requirements. With untold mineral and forest wealth and millions of acres of the world's richest agricultural lands lying idle and undeveloped, and the

world clamoring for food, it is paradoxical to harbor an unemployment problem. Widespread unemployment under such conditions is prima facie evidence of arrested development and this largely due to the fact that statesmanship in so far as sufficient intelligence and energy has not been focused on the solution of problems which obviously lend themselves to correction by well-known and proven methods.

That over-population inevitably leads to unemployment and increased economic pressure can hardly be doubted. The difficulty, however, lies in discriminating between over-production and under-development. Granting, for instance, that British industry and agriculture do not lend themselves to any early further development, in view of the number of people who are at this time in a state of continuous unemployment and public doles, there can be no difficulty in concluding that that country is, at least temporarily, over-populated. But the occasional seasonal unemployment in the Overseas Dominions cannot, by any stretch of imagination, be ascribed to over-population. It is essentially the product of under-development of their latent agricultural and other resources.

The present over-population menace of Great Britain and most European countries and the under-population problem of the Overseas Dominions are equally acute. In view of the mushroom growth of the urban world, aided and abetted by public policy, the rational distribution of the domiciled white population is rapidly becoming the central problem of modern statesmanship.

THE CITIZEN CONSUMER

In considering the social value of the citizen we cannot overlook his performance as a consumer of the commodities produced within the state. This has an important bearing on employment and general prosperity. The greater beneficiary in this respect is urban labor and industry. According to the latest annual figures Canadian industry produced goods of a gross value of \$761 million dollars. Of this the exported goods amounting to 455 million dollars. The balance divided by population, leaves the annual per capita consumption of manufactured articles of \$248.30. For every dollar's worth of export, over five dollars worth of such production was consumed at home. This clearly demonstrates the enormous value of the home market to Canadian labor and industry, and

be an enormous direct advantage to Canadian agriculture in a largely augmented population. The home market now absorbs 887 million dollars' worth of agricultural products as against our export market of 600 millions. The annual per capita consumption of farm products in Canada is thus \$27.50. The Western farmer, producing almost entirely for export, receives little benefit from our present home consumption of farm products, but with our population doubled the domestic market would loom up as a very important factor in his sales. At present he is at the mercy of overseas countries, which are now striving with every nerve and with more or less success, to promote decreased agricultural imports. At any moment he may be virtually closed out by tariff walls, as happened to his animal products in the United States market. His wheat will always be wanted, but his other products cannot afford to neglect. A bitter lesson has already been administered to him by our neighbors across the line.

QUANTITY PRODUCTION.

But that is not the only, or indeed the main consideration. Mass production is the essential element in successful, modern industry. It is the goal towards which Canadian policy, under both political parties, has been consistently directed ever since confederation. Following the war every country under the sun, including even Great Britain with certain limitations, has adopted a protective system with the sole aim of promoting within its boundaries mass production in order to ensure efficient manufacturing. The economic principle of protection is that competition at home will regulate prices and ultimately reduce them to the level of competing countries. But such obviously cannot come to pass until the consuming population at home is sufficiently great to permit of quantity production with all its economies.

Canadian agriculture will clearly suffer by reason of inflated commodity prices, leading to a higher production cost, until our general consuming population reaches a point where our industries can function more effectively and will voluntarily—or, if need be, by compulsion—reduce commodity prices, resulting in the lower cost of farm operation and living all around. Until we can bring about a spectacular increase in population, the present handicap of high commodity and operating costs, cannot be removed. This handicap is the chief grievance of the domiciled farmer, by saying, as it does, in a protected market and selling its own produce at a price which is below the yellow and black labor.

FARMER AND COLONIZATION.

The Canadian farmer, however, has a more direct and immediate interest in colonization. In fact, lasting agricultural prosperity is not possible in a new country without the steady, progressive colonization and development of the vacant spaces by permanent settlers. Land values today, east and west, are at a very low ebb, and many farmers have thus seen their chief asset shrink to such an extent that substantial equities have in some instances totally disappeared, representing the loss of the fruits of years of hard labor on the part of every member of the family. This condition we may safely regard as one of the chief causes of the present agricultural unrest and exodus.

Land represents his principal borrowing asset. Stable land values lie at the foundation of rural credit, practically all its forms. When land values become demoralized the whole agricultural credit structure is undermined. Credit of all sorts is curtailed and interest rates advance. In fact, it may be laid down as an economic axiom, that a prosperous agriculture and a contented rural population are not within the possibilities, with receding and unstable land values. The demoralizing effect upon the farmer of the progressive shrinkage of his chief capital asset is in itself bound to exercise a most unfortunate influence upon his morale.

There is today a vast area of vacant lands on the market in the prairie section of Canada and improved farms are offered for sale in other provinces at bargain prices. The demand for such properties slackened perceptibly with the drying up of the stimulating flow of immigration some years ago. The farmer should be keenly interested in recreating a normal market for rural properties. A normal market for land would be reflected in strengthened values all around and the moral effect would be electrical.

But aside from all this, there would

be an enormous direct advantage to Canadian agriculture in a largely augmented population. The home market now absorbs 887 million dollars' worth of agricultural products as against our export market of 600 millions. The annual per capita consumption of farm products in Canada is thus \$27.50. The Western farmer, producing almost entirely for export, receives little benefit from our present home consumption of farm products, but with our population doubled the domestic market would loom up as a very important factor in his sales. At present he is at the mercy of overseas countries, which are now striving with every nerve and with more or less success, to promote decreased agricultural imports. At any moment he may be virtually closed out by tariff walls, as happened to his animal products in the United States market. His wheat will always be wanted, but his other products cannot afford to neglect. A bitter lesson has already been administered to him by our neighbors across the line.

COMPETITION ARGUMENT

Our farmers, particularly those of the West, are often apprehensive of the effect of largely augmented agricultural production on market prices. The increasing population of Europe and the development of trade in agricultural products with the teeming millions of oriental countries, coupled with the rising home demands of many of the present exporting countries, will surely counterbalance any enhanced Canadian production of basic foodstuffs. So we need not apparently concern ourselves over much about the question of not finding a ready market for any volume of Canadian staple agricultural products we are apt to raise.

We might also reasonably conclude that a farmer in Great Britain, Sweden or Rumania is apparently just as much in competition with the Canadian farmer in the export market, whether he produces in his own country, in ours, or in any other. A healthy inflow of new settlers has a decided beneficial effect on the prices of our horses and domestic breeding stock of all classes. The absence of such an outlet for a class of stock not always in demand in the public markets, owing to age and condition, has seriously retarded all live-stock values during the past years of colonization stagnation. These values would also be obvious and educational advantages to the domiciled farmer in denser rural areas. The Canadian farmer should welcome settlers with open arms for these reasons only.

A SETTLER'S TRAFFIC VALUE

Canadian railways are vitally interested in ascertaining the traffic value of the settler. Some years ago able statisticians obtained, as a basis, the percentage of their whole prairie freight traffic derived from grain, livestock, coal and in and outgoing passenger revenue, and divided the number of settlers into the figures given. The exact percentages of each of the railways were worked out, based on the total tonnage for the years on the first of September, 1915, and the 31st August, 1916. The total for the prairie provinces for the classes of revenue referred to was \$168,516,918. In 1916 there were 219,100 farmers in these provinces and the division of one total by the other places the settler's traffic at \$746.38. This amount, capitalized at 51-2 per cent, gives a return of \$13,569.63, which would appear to be the capital value of each farmer to our railways.

SOCIAL INVESTMENT.

Accepting Prof. Irving Fisher's estimate of average value to the state at \$3,000 for each productive citizen, we may logically conclude that it would apparently be sound business to expend up to this amount upon the maintenance, education and training of the

native-born child until it reaches the productive age, or, in order to compensate for a falling birth rate or to speed up settlement, upon propaganda and other effort to transplant in Canada an acceptable person of productive age from another country. Records show that since 1870 we have brought somewhat over 41-2 million people to Canada at a direct cost to the government of 37 million dollars. Estimating the expenditure of the railways, provinces and other active agencies at an additional 46 million dollars, the aggregate cost would be 82 million dollars, or an average cost per head of less than \$20, and from this we should properly deduct 18 million dollars which has been collected under the Chinese head tax provision, the cost of administration of which is included in the government expenditure. This would bring the direct public contribution down to less than six dollars per immigrant!

Has Canada ever spent money more advantageously? Is it conceivable that any national investment could possibly yield greater returns? It is safe to predict that the people of Canada, with all the facts before them, would insist upon the annual, Federal expenditure for immigration purposes being largely increased and brought more nearly in line with the urgent necessities of the case.

SENSE OF HUMAN VALUES.

It is instructive to contemplate the unfriendly attitude of European nations towards the emigration of their citizens, except to their own overseas possessions. No matter how fierce the economic pressure, how widespread unemployment and distress, no progressive nation deliberately promotes emigration to evacuate obvious surplus population. There is, on the contrary, a keen appreciation of the potential value to the state of the vital asset, and nations will go to almost any lengths and incur the most fantastic expenditure on relief, to preserve this precious asset intact during periods of economic stress, in the hope of the unemployed population being ultimately absorbed in gainful production. We, in Canada, lack almost completely this sense of human values. We sit idly by while three hundred million dollars worth of our productive citizens, the flower of the nation, move across the boundary each year. Even the problem of their replacement gives comparatively small concern. For a country with our fabulous, undeveloped resources, it seems an amazingly unintelligent attitude of mind.

The colonization problem in Canada is not in any sense a class problem. Every citizen, irrespective of occupation, has a direct financial interest in its effective solution. If every class of the community would intelligently study the effect of an increased productive population upon its own fortunes, we would speedily create a favorable mass opinion on this subject. (The fourth article will appear in next Wednesday's issue.)

LUNATIC KILLS WIFE.

READING, Pa., Nov. 26.—Michael Twardowski escaped from an asylum yesterday and murdered his wife whom he blamed for giving testimony which sent him to the institution. Their two children witnessed the murder.

INVENTOR DEAD.

OGDEN, Utah, Nov. 26.—John M. Browning, world famous inventor of fire arms, is dead in Belgium, a cablegram to relatives in Ogden announced today.

J. C. BOYER HEADS ST. MARTINS CLUB

Begins Seventh Consecutive Term as President of Agricultural Society

ST. MARTIN'S, Nov. 24.—Reports submitted at the annual meeting on Thursday night of St. Martin's Agricultural Society, No. 54, show the organization to be in splendid financial condition. During the session it was decided to affiliate with the New Brunswick United Agricultural Societies and the sum of \$135 was voted as payment on the bill.

A committee was appointed to look into the matter of purchase of fertilizers. Addresses were delivered by the president, First Vice-president A. F. Bentley and Michael Kelly.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, J. C. Boyer, for the seventh consecutive term; first vice-president, A. F. Bentley; second vice-president, Benjamin Black; secretary-treasurer, Clarence Lowe; Stanley Armstrong, Walter Miller, David Vernon, Robert Shanklin, Capt. A. S. Vaughan, Robert Mosher, George E. Mosher, Arthur H. Moran, Herbert Jackson, Ernest Daly, Wilford Brown and Ernest Osborne; auditor, Walter Miller.

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Thousands of housewives have found how to save two-thirds of the money usually spent for cough preparations, by using this well-known old recipe for making cough syrup. It is simple and cheap but it has no equal for results. It gives immediate relief, usually stopping an ordinary cough in 24 hours or less.

Get 2½ ounces of Pinex from any druggist, pour it into a 16-oz. bottle, add plain granulated sugar syrup to make 16 ounces. If you prefer, use refined honey instead of sugar syrup. Either way, it tastes good, keeps perfectly, and lasts a family a long time.

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Pinex for Coughs

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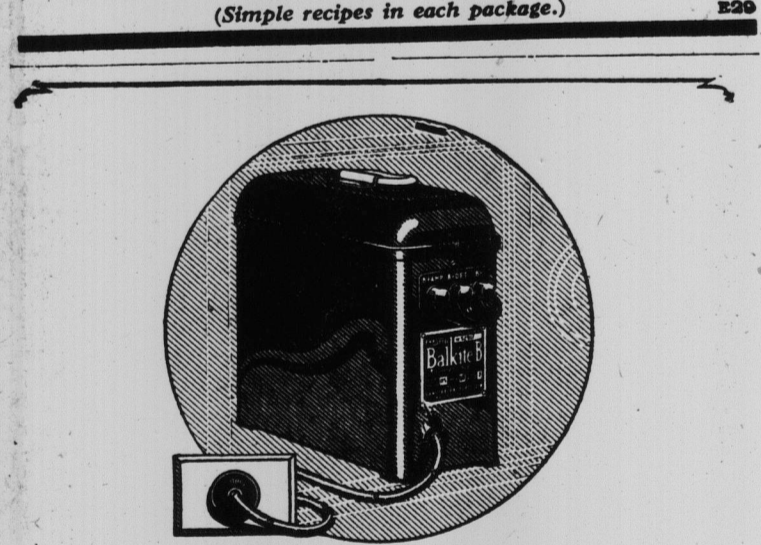
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Balkite "B" is offered in three models to serve any set: Balkite "B"-W for sets of 5 tubes or less requiring 67 to 90 volts—\$39. Balkite "B"-X for sets of 8 tubes or less including power tubes, capacity 30 milliamperes at 135 volts—\$59.50. Balkite "B"-Y for any standard set, capacity 40 milliamperes at 150 volts—\$96. Ask your dealer.

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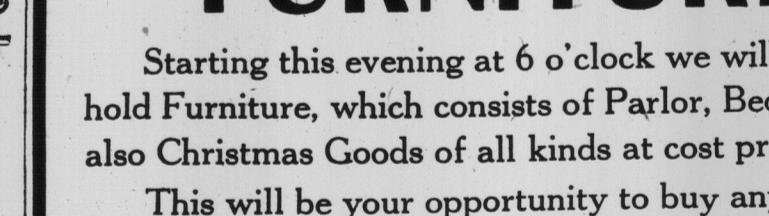
With the bands turned down it provides perfect protection for forehead and ears. It fits snugly and keeps out wind, snow and sleet. It is acknowledged to be the best head protector made.

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Spinet Desks, Pedestals, Flower Stands and Baskets, Sewing Cabinets, Parlor Lamps, Mirrors, Medicine Cabinets, Doll Carriages, Baby Carriages, Smokers, Cedar Chests, Baby's High Chairs, Cribs, Children's Hardwood Rockers also Sea Grass Rockers and Kindergarten Sets in Red and White.

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