

COSMOPOLITAN POPULATION

people lies chiefly with the Western Provinces, where they have settled in large numbers. It is quite obvious, then, that upon the manner in which the western provincial governments deal with this important and serious problem will depend the strengthening or weakening of our national structure as a result of the admission of so many thousands from foreign lands. If our provincial statesmen do not deal with the problem from a lofty, national point of view; if they cater to the vote of the foreigner from purely partisan motives; if they prostitute our Canadian ideals of citizenship in order to gain temporary political advantage; if they do not insist upon the child of the foreigner receiving a proper elementary education in the English language, they are endangering our national existence, and at the same time making us the laughing-stock of all enlightened peoples. The manner in which the Western Provinces have set about the solution of this problem of educating and assimilating these people from foreign shores will be dealt with in Part II of this volume. In the remaining chapters of Part I will be found a brief history of the lives of the numerically more important of these new-comers, in their native lands, and an effort will be made to show how they are adapting themselves to life in the Dominion of Canada.