

# THE WAYSIDE PHILOSOPHER

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## WELCOME BLISS CARMAN

One of our greatest Canadian Poets has honoured us with his presence, has read to us in open-hearted manner some of his poems. The Nature-love that lay half revealed, half concealed therein has been seen more clearly and will be admired more fervently.

Carman speaks to us with real Canadian ideals. Let us listen and understand to our profit and his honour.

## MORE POPULATION

During the election we heard again from different sources the cry "More People." "Give us more people," said more than one candidate, "and we will solve your railway problem." "Give us more people," we answer, "under existing conditions and you solve no railway problem but create a greater problem than even the railway situation admittedly is."

What does this cry of more people mean practically?

First, it means that the present means of securing immigration are inadequate to meet our requirements. Therefore we must get in touch with more people. This presupposes more agencies; other methods of work; new devices and appeals. All this means more agents; more literature; more expense.

Granted the new agencies, the new fields, the new appeals, the added expense; is that all? Apparently not. Costly as all this added machinery would prove to be, the advocates of the "more people" idea are evidently not confident of success in that alone. Two further steps must be considered. One is lowering the standard of immigration. The other "Aided Immigration."

Of the first of these alternatives little discussion is necessary. No sentiment in its favour exists in any section of Canada worthy the name. Everywhere the insistent call is heard to avoid the mistakes and evils we already know by reason of too great laxity in dealing with this problem. If there is any sentiment on this subject—and there is—it is in the shape of a demand for stricter supervision, higher standards, severer restrictions, selecter immigrants.

What then of "Aided Immigration?" How will the immigrants to be aided be selected? What aid will they receive? How will that aid be administered? Big questions these worthy careful attention. Let them be answered wisely in respect to the cost of our immigration services, will we then be able to say that the expense was justified? Can we then with assurance conclude that the money thus spent would not have brought much better results from a National standpoint if spent in other directions? Possibly, nay, probably, not.

What class or sort of immigrants do we need?

"Farmers," says one, "See the vast area of unsettled agricultural lands we now have idle on our hands." Arable areas we have in an unsettled state to a degree. We also have large numbers of farmers who are not settled on any of these lands. Why? We have also on many of our farms men who have no business there. Reasons for this exist. Our agricultural situation is in itself a great problem. Is there any difficulty in placing a real farmer now in our midst on a farm that will not apply in greater degree to an immigrant farmer? Will an unskilled immigrant-farmer be a better asset than a similar person Canadian born and familiar with

our language, institutions and ideals? If so, let us know it and at once.

"Industrial workers," says another. Yet the statistics to our hand show nearly one-half of our industrial establishments idle and thousands of our industrial employees out of work. Do we want to retain these people in our midst or do we ask for an immigrant class who with lower standards of living, lower values of life, will supply their places at a lower wage rate? Shall we replace Canadians by Asiatics of the type of thousands we have already received to our cost? Perhaps some would prefer Chinese to Scots, Japanese to English, but we think they are few.

Do we require unskilled labour? Surely no one will suggest adding to any of (1) Our cheap Oriental labour, (2) our cheap Southern-European labour, (3) those of our own race who handicapped by bad training, insufficient education, find themselves in competition with these.

What then? Whom shall we have? How shall we obtain them? What disposal shall we make of them?

Immigration problems we have now in plenty. We have zones that are Mormon, Galician, Doukhobor and what not. Shall we add to these in number, area, or density of population? Shall we add still other polyglot races to our present collection?

Are our sentiments strong enough to mould and fashion into real Canadians any appreciable increased number of immigrants?

What can we offer them? Are our own people so equably distributed, happily employed and pleasantly situated that we can easily and comfortably assimilate more? Is our moral fibre so strong that we can instil sound ideas of God, home and British institutions into those who may come among us?

What we need is not more people but a better people, better living conditions, higher moral and business standards, greater realization of the truth that it is by God we live, move and have our being. Then a contented land will irresistibly attract. Each home of a former stranger now thoroughly Canadianized will be an immigration centre and letters speaking of right conditions and happy homes will bring people to our shores as fast as we can assimilate them.

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