

our business to assimilate these people, to make Canadians of them. It is not an issue that can be dodged. It is a matter of life and death with us. If we fail in our work the newcomers will make something of us, far different from anything we ever dreamed of. For they are coming in hordes, relatively four times as fast as they ever came to the United States, and the great cities there have ghastly tales to tell of what non-assimilation means.

The first generation of these foreigners will learn to speak English after a fashion. The next will learn to read it. And the first reading matter that will fall into their hands will not be works on ethics, politics or religion, will not be standard fiction, even, but the "far-flung" weekly or daily news sheet. These sheets will supply ideas to the newcomers and the character of the paper will mould the character of the immigrant. The press can instil what ideas and what ideals it will, can promote sectionalism or unity as it wishes, can form an east that is east only and a west that is west only, or a nation that is all Canadian with a virile Canadian spirit and a robust intelligent people, thoughtful, liberal, courageous, independent, truth-loving, stable, intolerant of corruption, impatient of anything tending toward disunion, insistent upon their rights. It can train the newcomers in the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship in a democracy, or leave them unschooled to brood over imagined wrongs, and flock after the leaders of the anarchy they have known in Europe, or to sink into an indifferent purchaseable mob, that will form a dead weight, hindering the nation's progress. This is no fancy picture. You have only to go to the Telluride region of Colorado for the anarchy, to Chicago and New York for the indifference. The same people are coming to us and we have enough of their characteristics with us already.

Unfortunately, the press can do little with the first generation. The schools and churches must do their work first. The second generation, however, is already with us, and the work of making Canadians is being done every day. But it is not only the newcomers who need to be drilled in Canadianism. Our national spirit is growing but slowly. The union is forty years old, but the provinces are not yet thoroughly cemented. British Columbia talks of secession now and then, while only a month ago a prominent Nova Scotian hailed a new Dominion Cabinet minister as one come down to them "from Canada." But as the provinces come to know one another, they will grow together. Here is a work for the press. You can't preach men into friendship, but you can force friendship upon them unconsciously by bringing them together every day. By presenting the people with the news of the whole country the newspapers are doing a great work. They are keeping the different parts interested in one another, and thus binding the whole together. They are teaching the people to know their own country. They are firing their imagination. They have but to make them think, and they will think imperially. The possibilities of an all-Canadian news service, of an imperial news service, are being widely canvassed at the present moment. These are organizations of the future, but their time will come, and then the Canadian press,