

others are trying to fashion new nations amid the welter of Europe.

It is well to remember that there are about 350,000 Slavs in this country, and that they may become a great asset, or a great liability. The vast majority of these came from rural Slavic Europe, and the Slav in Europe a decade ago presented a picture to be portrayed. The colours with which that picture has been painted may be too lurid when they show, "In ignorance and illiteracy, in the prevalence of superstition and priestcraft, in the harshness of the Church and State, in the subservience of the common people to the upper classes, in the low position of women, in the subjection of the child to the parent, in coarseness of manner and speech, and in low standards of cleanliness and comfort, a large part of the Slavic world remains at the level of our English forefathers of the days of Henry VIII."* But these are the very matters in which Canada can show the helping hand. In one township in Alberta a rural survey showed eighty Slavic children of school age and only twenty-eight attending school. Two of the fathers, but not one of the mothers, could read English. In seventy-eight houses there was an average of only four books to a house, and twenty-five of the houses were without books of any kind. Thirty families

* E. A. Ross, *The Old World in the New*.