

Both in Canada and Australia events are shaping unsatisfactorily for Imperialism: in Canada by the inflow of people of alien blood or alien sentiments, or both; in Australia by a failure to get people in anything like the numbers so urgently needed if the country is not to continue a sore temptation to every nation in search of an easy opportunity of expansion.

## III

## WHAT THE DOMINIONS ARE DOING

The duty of Great Britain today is to cooperate with us oversea in the more equitable distribution of the British people. We of Australia and Canada appeal to you to assist in every possible way the filling of our empty places with citizens of Anglo-Saxon origin. We want you to come to us more readily and in greatly increased numbers, and to use your influence to divert to us the emigrants and the capital you now send to countries flying foreign flags. The scope for this last branch of endeavor is shown by your emigration figures for last year. In 1910, 319,886 people left Great Britain and Ireland to settle in other countries, and of these 140,541 went to foreign countries, 139,239 going to the United States alone, 34,619 to British North America, 33,000 to Australia and New Zealand, 89,787 to South Africa. Could anything be less satisfactory than that of the people leaving these shores more than 44 per cent. should go to make up the strength of nations which may one day be in arms against us? Every man, woman and child sent to Australia or Canada means a stronger Britain in the hour of trial; every soul sent to the foreigner means two against you—one you lose and one the foreigner gains.

It will be said that the dominions should look to this vital matter themselves. They do. In the current year Australia will spend in round figures about £400,000 on the gathering in of people. Canada will spend even more. That expenditure will each year be substantially increased, and then it represents but the beginning of the energy displayed. These two countries, in the offers they are making to the immigrant, are giving every encouragement to the Mother-country to bestir herself in the safeguarding of her distant territories and the insurance of her own future. The young man or woman of the United Kingdom has never been offered such chances abroad as today in the new countries which fly the British flag. The homeseeker now sets out under entirely different and incomparably brighter and easier conditions than his father had in the past. When Britain thought it worth while to win and found colonies, her sons went out in the face of extreme difficulties and certain hardships.

Contrast the lot and the prospects of the young Englishman going to Australia, even so recently as sixty years ago to the gold diggings of Ballarat and Bendigo, with the lot and prospects of the man who goes to Victoria to, say, an irrigation farm today. In the "fifties" he embarked on a small sailing-ship, probably a cargo vessel hastily converted by a piece of rough carpentering into a passenger boat: at best an ill-ventilated, evil-smelling, wind-dependent vessel, carrying only salt meat and

tinned provisions for a tedious voyage of from four to six months. For this unpleasant ride the traveller paid his own fare. He landed a stranger in a country where the cost of living was excessively high; he knew nobody, had no knowledge of the region in which he found himself. If his purse was long, a coach bore him away to the goldfields; if poor, he walked a hundred miles or more. Ignorant of the rudiments of mining, he went to work at a pursuit which, despite the almost unparalleled richness of the claims, paid dividends to only an occasional lucky man. After years of tramping and flossicking and harsh living, he probably became a land "selector," and ultimately a farmer. If he became a selector he took up from the Government a block of green forest land, probably fifty miles or more from the railway, and long years of further isolation and hardship went by before he knew the ordinary conveniences and pleasures of life. That was, in brief outline, the history of scores of thousands of Australia's early men.

Today it is different. Keeping to the state of Victoria, what do we find? The young Englishman with a taste for an oversea home and a substantial return for his money and his labor, presents himself to the Agent-General in London, or to one of his many agents in the provinces, and receives at once the minutest details of the land to which he thinks of emigrating. He finds out all about the new country and all about going there. He decides to go. He discovers that his beneficent Agent-General will advance him, under reasonable conditions of repayment, up to 80 per cent. of his passage money. His berth is booked for him, and he goes aboard a great modern steamer of 10,000 or 12,000 tons, where he probably lives better than he has been accustomed to live at his home on shore. He makes Australia in from six to eight weeks, according to route, after a voyage which to nine men and women out of ten is an unbroken enjoyment.

At Melbourne, or at the previous port of call, his steamer is boarded by a Government official who takes him, if he wishes it, to a state boarding-house, where he is lodged and fed for half-a-crown a day, and given advice about the judicious expenditure of his money. But his stay in the city is short. In a day or two he is off to see the irrigation farms which the Government has on offer. He travels on the state railways at reduced fares, and is met in the irrigation districts by special offers and driven over the land. He is introduced to experienced local farmers and given every opportunity and assistance to learn what are his prospects. Perhaps he decides to buy, and, if so, his way is easy. Say he takes a block of sixty acres at £12 an acre. From the outset this acre will yield him a net amount of £250 to £300, and in five years may be yielding anything up to £1,000.

He pays down 3 per cent. on his purchase, that is roughly £22, and continues to pay rent and capital off at the rate of 6 per cent. on his purchase for thirty-one years, after which the land becomes his own. The state assists him to build a house, giving him a choice of size and architecture, and also assists liberally.