

ada received 1,244,597—of whom 582,339 were from North and West Europe, including Iceland; 235,076 were from other European countries, including Syria; 393,908 were from the United States; 21,495 were Asiatic, and 11,779 others.

The immigration to Canada has yearly increased and for the fiscal year 1910-1911 there were admitted 311,084 — of whom 123,013 were British; 121,451 were from the United States and 66,620 were from European countries. The immigration to the United States for the same period was 1,085,712. Considering the population of the two countries the immigration to Canada has been relatively much greater.

Although Canada is making persistent efforts to promote emigration, its laws relative to the exclusion of the undesirable are hardly less rigid than that of the United States, but they are more adaptable to emergencies or changed conditions, while greater discretionary powers and authority are conferred upon civil and medical officers. The United States medical officer is limited to the certification of the physical and mental condition of immigrants, except in cases where rejection is mandatory under the law; their admissibility being the function of the boards of special inquiry, Commissioner General of Immigration or the Secretary of the Department of Commerce and Labor. The duties of the Canadian medical officers are administrative as well as professional.

While increasing legislation has been the means of a gradual elevation of standards and additional restrictive laws are under discussion and pending enactment, provision for better and more stringent enforcement of the existing law is needed in both countries.

From a humane standpoint every effort should be made to detect excludable cases at the port of departure by Government medical officers who have been trained at ports of entry, in order that hundreds yearly of such immigrants may not have to suffer the hardships of family separations, disappointments, as well as the pecuniary loss which most of them can ill afford and a useless voyage across the Atlantic; or as frequently happens, after they have gained admission, acquired a domicile and perhaps brought many of those dependent upon

them into the country, to be then deported from public institutions, as is provided by the immigration laws, which permit such deportations at the expense of the steamship lines, within three years, if it can be demonstrated that their malady existed prior to landing.

Trained Government medical officers should be detailed in addition to the ship-surgeon, upon every ship carrying immigrants, as is now the custom of the Italian government, who assign a medical officer of the Royal Italian Navy upon every ship sailing from an Italian port. These officers, known as Royal Italian Commissioners, have unlimited powers of supervision of food, accommodations, medical and surgical care, hospital facilities; in short every condition which may affect the comfort or safety of the immigrant. Such officers in their intimate contact with the emigrant, ranging in duration from six to fourteen days, would have exceptional opportunity for observation and detecting evidences of quarantinable infectious or contagious disease; minor mental or physical defects, which might otherwise be overlooked, but of a nature sufficient to warrant detention and further careful examination by either quarantine or immigration officers upon arrival. Such a provision besides minimizing the unfortunate aliens hardships, would materially assist port medical officers, improve ship sanitation, tend to solve many quarantine problems, as well as being a further obstacle to the introduction of quarantinable disease and an aid to the preservation of public health.

The United States Immigration Law, which is practically identical with that of the Canadian Act, excludes the following classes of diseased aliens from admission:

“All idiots, imbeciles, feeble-minded persons, epileptics, insane persons, and persons who have been insane within five years previous; persons who have had two or more attacks of insanity at any time previously;—persons afflicted with tuberculosis, or with a loathsome or dangerous contagious disease;—those who are found to be and are certified by the examining surgeon as being mentally or physically defective, such mental or physical defect being of such a nature which may affect the ability of such alien to earn a living.”