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Editorial.

UNDESIRABLE ALIEN IMMIGRATION.

The Canadian immigration authorities have begun in a somewhat tardy and half-hearted way to take cognizance of the large number of immigrants suffering from loathsome, contagious and incapacitating diseases, whom we are welcoming to our country—not satisfied with the normal percentage of disease known to exist among those destined to points in Canada, we have till a few weeks ago retained the refuse rejected by the U. S. Immigration Commission stationed at our Canadian ports.

The experience of the large cities in the United States should long ago have taught us that sufferers from favus, trachoma, tuberculosis and hernia make undesirable citizens until cured of their maladies. An average of two per cent. of such cases are found by the United States officials among their immigrants, and Canadian immigration from continental Europe is usually of the same class, sometimes even worse. Of the 23,000 such who settled in Canada last year, it is reasonable to suppose that at least 400 were undesirable, who will ultimately fill our hospitals and poor asylums. To these may be added about 100 who, rejected in transit to the United States, elect to remain in Canada.

We understand steps are being taken to deport those who are examined and rejected by the U. S. Immigration Commissioners, but we