

PREFACE.

THIS book has many defects. The investigation, begun at the request of the Canadian National Committee for Mental Hygiene, has been carried on in the intervals, not at all frequent, in the course of the day's work. The consequent lack of intensive and extended inquiry, since it protracted the consideration of single issues, may have prevented in some measure over-hasty conclusions, but it has also prevented the precise detailed analysis that is so desirable and which the subject requires. It is, however, offered to a Canadian public only as a feeble attempt to understand the significance of the mass of material bound up in Government Blue Books, and to see the far-reaching character of the influx to this country of various peoples from nearly every land beneath the skies. The study is not complete but only the beginning of that which some day abler pens will describe as the great formative period of Canada's early life.

While many histories clearly and skilfully narrate the general political development of