

# EMIGRATION FROM BRITAIN IS DECLINING

Despite Government Assistance Only 88,883 Left the Country Last Year.

NATURAL INCREASE OF POPULATION 300,000

The Total Number Emigrating to Canada Last Year Only Reached 47,194.

[The Associated Press.] London, Aug. 31.—Emigration from England and Scotland to less crowded parts of the empire is less than half a great as before the war, despite the fact that the home country is overcrowded and opportunities for workers seem to grow scarcer. Last year, despite the growth of unemployment and the encouragement given to emigrants through government financial assistance, only 88,883 people left to take up residence in the dominions and colonies. In 1913, when no financial help was offered by the state, the number was 223,581.

The natural increase of population on this island averages about 300,000 persons a year at present. Unless more people depart, overcrowding and perhaps unemployment will steadily become more severe. In 1913, statistics given by the Colonial Secretary, show 164,566 people emigrated from this country to Canada and Newfoundland, but last year the total was only 47,194. For the same years the number going to Australia dwindled from 44,500 to 30,200; to New Zealand, from 11,800 to 8,740 and for other parts of the empire, from 2,340 to 2,000. Only South Africa showed an increased magnetism for migrants, but the figures are insignificant—375 emigrants in 1913 and 649 last year.

These facts are causing serious ponderings among many who feel that trade will never wax large enough to absorb all the idlers in England and Scotland unless their numbers are vastly lowered by wholesale migrations to those parts of the empire which are under-populated. There are some who feel that emigration never can be made properly attractive so long as persons can stay at home and make a living doing nothing. That is what the dole amounts to, in their eyes, and there are about 1,300,000 persons on the dole, receiving their hand-out from the state each week they are without work. The unemployed, it is contended, prefer to stay where they are, rather than wrench themselves away from this island and gamble on a little more glittering future in pastures new.

Happiness is something that we had yesterday and hope to regain tomorrow, but which always eludes us to-day.

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## Between Two Fires

(Continued.)

Suddenly, however, a change swept over his countenance. The light fled, a pained, startled look settled in his eyes. The "still, small voice" had spoken, forcing home the truth. Put tomorrow, but which always eludes us to-day.

"Why do I feel like this?" he asked himself. "Why do those eyes haunt me and linger in my brain—my soul? Why is she never out of my thoughts? Why am I so anxious to be again in her company to hear her voice to touch her hand? Oh! Heaven help me! Is it love? Am I a villain? Am I false to Lucille? No," he added, starting up—"no! I am not such a scoundrel as all that comes to. I would not pain Fairy for worlds. Bah! It's all nonsense! I must overcome this absurdity! The girl is wondrously beautiful, and, by Jove! so accomplished. It's a glamour she has cast over me, as evanescent as my affection for Lucille is lasting."

Yet a depression was on him, and in his secret heart he began to regret he had left Australia. Rising, he was about to resume the hair brushes, when Lucille's voice resounded beneath the window, calling to him from the garden.

"Pardon me, I can. Am I not like you?" he said gently.

"Quite. I'll be down in two minutes," he answered, going to the window.

"James wants to know if you take the fishing tackle."

"Not I, think, this morning, Fairy," he replied, looking down into the pretty, smiling face. "What a selfish brute I am," he admitted, as Lucille tripped off to give her orders, "not to think myself the happiest man in existence, possessing that dear girl's love."

Taking his straw hat, he descended to get a flower for his buttonhole. Entering the conservatory, his heart gave a great jump, as among the flowers, he beheld the graceful figure of Linda Barrington.

Her back was toward him, and in a low, sad voice, she was singing a song, pathetic and despairing. Cuthbert stopped, and was hesitating to advance, when he heard the melody

so highly. Indeed, it looks the very thing."

"By no means curious circumstance, for it had been arranged expressly for him."

"To Cuthbert this meeting in the conservatory had seemed most natural, he being unaware that Linda, hurrying her toilet, had been waiting his arrival for fully a quarter of an hour."

"If you think so," she said, dropping her eyes, "my little bouquet will be most honored."

"She held the flowers to him. He took them an instant in his hand, retaining her fingers, then said:

"Will you not make the gift complete, Miss Barrington? Will you not fasten them in yourself? A man is always so clumsy in such matters."

"Oh, certainly!" she answered, blushing, and fastened them.

She had to stand very close to do it—so close that he could see how soft was the texture of her delicate skin—how glossy the long lashes—how pure the complexion, unaided by pearl powder or cosmetics.

How beautiful she was in that black serge dress and simple straw hat! Cuthbert would have given ten years of his life for permission to touch the round cheek with his lips—indeed, had the ceremony of flower-fastening been prolonged, it cannot be asserted what he might have done, so helpless was he becoming before her—so intoxicated with her subtle fascination.

As it was, imprisoning one of her hands as she stepped back, he presented it to his lips. At the same moment Lucille's voice sounded close by them; the next she entered the conservatory.

Linda and Cuthbert started away like two guilty beings. The former, however, quickly recovered her composure.

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