

Selections.

The Undesirable Immigrant.

There are many different circumstances arising every day in Montreal which drive home upon our minds the fact that we are getting a great deal of moral and physical riff-raff from Europe. This is not a reflection upon the decent and healthy immigrant, but upon the laxity of rule that allows the "undesirable" to land. With the question of financial fitness we have not to do at present, although we do know a case where an inland bank telegraphed a large amount of money to Quebec to be loaned to immigrants to pass the portal. What we are here concerned with is the question of a medical examination that shall be sufficiently searching to detect advanced tuberculosis, and mental incapacity, and such important disorders. We are in the position of having seen in a few days in Montreal three cases: two of these were far gone in consumption at the time of their landing, and are at the public charge at present. The third is a cripple, of such a great degree of deformity as to be quite unsuited to anything but a life of immobility in a tailor's shop, where he will be certain to end his days at no far-distant time. The country has as good a right to reject such immigrants as has the insurance company to refuse to insure them. This is no question of sentiment, for we yield to no one in our admiration for the cripple who makes a brave fight against his disabilities; but it is a question of who are to be the fathers of the future children of Canada, and if we hope to do our duty by the country it is part of our duty to see that we have as great a freedom as possible from preventible diseases.

It is not beyond our province to say that the medical inspection of immigrants at our ports is not adequate: the steamship and railway companies are eager to pass their passengers on as rapidly as possible, and there seems no possibility of having them kept long enough to allow a thorough examination of them to be made; the solution does not seem to lie upon this side of the water, but upon so rigorous an examination on the other side that such passengers would not be allowed to begin their journey. Upon first cabin steamship passengers this ought not to be obligatory, unless it were plainly evident that an "undesirable"