

IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

house. He and his wife and two children live in two rented rooms, and keep from fifteen to twenty male roomers. The place is nearly all beds. There are also a table, a stove, and some boxes."

These are but a few of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of similar cases that might be discovered by visiting many of our Canadian urban centres. Are we going to continue to allow many of our "New-Canadians" to be reared under such conditions?

Throughout the prairie provinces great stretches of land have been settled by immigrants from European countries. In many cases, as in the cities, they very seldom come into contact with Canadian influences. They, too, have their own churches and their own newspapers. The language of the home is German, Ruthenian, Hungarian, Bohemian, or Polish, as the case may be. In the villages where they trade they have their own merchants, speaking their own language. In these settlements there is but one force at work to Canadianize their children—the public school. Even here the teacher is very often one of their own nationality, who has an inadequate knowledge of our language, and a very vague idea of Canadian citizenship and all that it stands for. This phase of the problem will be dealt with in a later chapter. The most conspicuous, perhaps, of these settlers who have made their homes apart from English-speaking people are the Ruthenians and German