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Special Articles

## THE MEDICAL INSPECTION OF IMMIGRANTS

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Immigration is a subject of vital importance to every loyal citizen, especially to the medical profession, creating as it does many complex problems—economic, social, moral and physical—and being the chief source of increment to our population.

The Dominion of Canada has a definite immigration policy, based on needs and conditions, with an immigration Act sufficiently flexible and admirably adapted to permit the effective carrying out of such a policy. The policy of the government is to promote and encourage the emigration of settlers for the agricultural regions, by means of wise and discriminate selection and to discourage the migration of such classes that settle in towns and cities.

No race or nationality are excluded by the immigration Act, but a discretionary power conferred upon officials charged with the administration of the Act makes in a measure discrimination possible.

In the last ten years the Dominion has expended several million dollars in its campaign to promote emigration by the advertising and the sending of farmer delegates as lecturers to various countries. The information imparted by these delegates has been the means of removing the deep-rooted prejudices against settlement in Canada and in conveying a correct knowledge of

the country, its advantages and possibilities.

The emigration of poor and homeless British children to Canada is now encouraged and supervised, but not otherwise assisted by the Dominion government. They are sent to Canada by charitable and religious organizations and the majority are placed in the families of farmers, but the demand for them far exceeds the supply. In nine years 19,034, of these juveniles were admitted. This form of immigration is very commendable and most desirous for the upbuilding of a new country. It has passed the experimental stage and the wisdom of such juvenile immigration is becoming more manifest each succeeding year in the development of self-respecting, useful and industrious citizens for the agricultural and industrial centres of the Dominion.

Until recently the United States was the destination of by far the greater part of immigration to this continent, but since the opening up of the vast agricultural areas in the Dominion emigration has increased, until Canada to-day is one of the great immigrant-receiving countries of the world. During the nine-year period 1900-1909, the total immigration to the United States was 7,753,816, and during the same period Can-