

## The Next Generation

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When the Canadian Dominion was born, and for a generation afterwards, there were but two types of humanity in Canada. These were clearly distinguished by the language they spoke into English-speaking and French-speaking. Being unable to talk to each other they remained apart and differences of race and faith consequently became accentuated, making the two types more evidently distinct.

That neither race nor creed was in itself, nor were both of them together, an effective obstacle to homogeneity was evident in both the English and French-speaking sections. People of English and Protestant birth who settled in Quebec were speedily incorporated, either in themselves or their children, into the mass of the people. While in the English-speaking provinces, though the processes of assimilation were slower and never ran quite to amalgamation, neither religion nor race prevented each family attaining the same general level of education, wealth and comfort. Only language drew the line between the two types.

### National and Racial Differences in Canada and Abroad.

Compared with other national or quasi-national communities Canada might count herself fortunate. If she looked to the south she saw the United States perplexed and troubled by a negro population growing faster than the white, a dismal legacy from the sins of their fathers. If she looked across the sea, she saw the torment the United Kingdom suffered from the Irish question. If she looked to Germany, Austria or Russia she saw a constant jarring of types which bereft these nations of a moment's peace. As things go among the peoples we Canadians were very well off indeed.

### Problem of Birth-Rate.

The English-speaking section of the population might indeed have been made anxious by a contemplation of the birth-rates. No one likes to think of his heritage passing to others, and the superior power which numbers and greater territories gave to them seemed likely, in a generation or two, to become the prize of the fecundity of Quebec. Less inclined to go to "the States", and more inclined to raise a large family, it was not difficult to foresee that, if no force from outside interfered with the growth of population, Canada would become predominantly French. Northern New Brunswick and eastern Ontario were steadily becoming such as the children of the prolific habitants settled down as near home as possible. Where would it end?

It must be confessed that the English-speaking Canadian showed few signs of alarm at the prospect. Perhaps he preserved his composure because such revelations of the destruction to come as reached his ears were generally motivated by a too obvious religious jealousy. Perhaps it was because the political leaders, ever sensitive to the Quebec vote, left the matter carefully alone. Perhaps it was because he felt that Canada would not continue in a static condition, feeling sure that influences would blow across the Atlantic which would radically change the ratio between the people of the English and French-speaking types. The English-speaking Canadian who remained in Canada has been a man in whom hope was strong. Only the hopeless ones went to Boston or Buffalo or Chicago. Remaining at home he dreamt of a glorious day when his country should become a centre of the world's interest. And, in anticipation of that splendid day, such problems of population might be neglected.

### The Stream of Immigration.

Well, that day came. The eyes of ancient nations were turned on Canada. A few bands of inquisitive pilgrims arrived. They were pleased with what they saw and wrote home to their friends—for the satisfied immigrant is the true immigration agent—and the great river of a continent's overflow set toward our shores. They came—three million strong—one single year bringing over 400,000—and are now lingering at home to settle some differences which have arisen, after which they will come again. They will come till the ratio between men and land is appreciably altered in this empty and fertile land.

### The Native and the Foreign Born.

And now we have a new problem of birth-rate. It lies in the conflict between the descendants of the foreign-born and of the native stock. For, unlikely and paradoxical as it is at first blush, the fact is that a mass of unskilled laborers of lower standards of living, when introduced into a population, do not constitute an addition to it. They simply replace the unskilled workers among the native

stock. A few of the natives are pushed up to superior positions as bosses and employers. Others move west or to the cities. But the greater portion of them are helpless against the invasion. They are driven to accept the lower wages and lesser comforts which their new competitors force upon them, and then, after the generation passes, the foreign born have it all to themselves. Malthus was "right," the human race will not reproduce itself beyond the limits of what it will accept as a reasonable subsistence.

The chief students and authorities of the immigration question in the United States—which had seventy years experience of the problem before it began to vex Canada—are calling attention to certain facts which should rouse the nation.

One of these facts is that the present population of the United States is much smaller than it would have been had no immigrants reached its ports, if the early birth-rate had been maintained. Elkanah Watson, a leading mathematician and publicist of that day, calculated in 1815 that by the end of the century there would be a hundred millions of people in the Republic. He assumed that the rate of increase by reproduction then prevailing would be maintained. As a matter of fact there were only seventy-six millions in the United States in 1900, notwithstanding that twenty millions of immigrants had arrived during the century. What made the difference? The almost universal reply may be sociolo-

gical students is; the decline of the birth-rate due to immigration.

### A Striking Birth-Rate Fact.

Another fact is that the birth-rate has fallen most rapidly in those regions where immigrants have settled most abundantly. Thus there has been a stationary birth-rate in the southern states, which received few immigrants, while the native stock of New England, which had the highest birth-rate in the nation at the beginning of the century, had the lowest at its close. And New England had become the home of the largest number of immigrants. Indeed, one can trace the successive advent of waves of population, each as it arrives underbidding and replacing the workers it found, and each in turn being underbid and replaced by new masses of immigrants bringing still lower standards of living. So in turn Irish, Italian, and Slavic crowds have come and at first conquered and later succumbed, while the Slavs are now in process of displacement by the eastern Mediterranean pouring.

It is true, no doubt, that other influences than immigration affect the birth-rate. And, besides, the several strata of society respond in different ways to different influences. But it seems clear that that great class of our population, the decent poor, the hard-working and honest laborers—the class upon whose shoulders rests the prosperity of the nation, and from whose homes so many of our leaders come—is doomed to extinction by reason of the masses of foreigners who literally take the bread from their mouths. Is not this worth thinking about?

An article on the distribution of immigrants is required to complete this discussion. It will be forthcoming shortly.

## Disabled Canadian Soldiers

### What is Being Done to Restore Their Ability

The Military Hospitals Commission at Ottawa states that 2,081 soldiers were under its care at the beginning of November. Of these, 426 were at Sanatoria for tuberculosis, and 1,616 at Convalescent Hospitals, 682 of the latter being out-patients—while 39 members of the force were in asylums for the insane. Of the 426 cases of tuberculosis, it may be added, almost exactly half were discovered in time to prevent them from leaving Canada for the seat of war.

According to a statement prepared by the Militia Department, up to October 5, 1916, the number of soldiers sent back to Canada because of medical unfitness was 6,208. Of these, 961 were suffering from wounds, shell-shock, or the effect of gas; 122 were insane; 245 were afflicted with tuberculosis; while the remainder, 4,880, were suffering from other diseases and disabilities.

All Canadians ought to know what is being done by the Military Hospitals Commission, acting on behalf of the whole body of citizens, for the restoration of their wounded defenders to a position of self-support and independence.

Every disabled soldier is medically examined on arriving at Quebec. If he is no longer in need of hospital treatment, he is sent home free of expense and discharged with a pension or gratuity according to the extent of his disability.

If he needs further treatment, he is taken to the hospital or sanatorium where the treatment most suitable to his case is available, and, if possible, to the institution nearest his home. Men who cannot resume their former work on discharge from hospital are advised and enabled to take special training for new occupations. This is provided free of cost; and while the men are being trained the Dominion Government maintains them and their families.

Men needing artificial limbs are taken to Toronto where these limbs are made and supplied without charge. Men with serious nerve disorders are treated specially in the Ontario Military Hospital at Coburg.

Each Provincial Government has appointed a Commission to help discharged men in securing steady and remunerative work. The Dominion Government, and other authorities and employers, systematically give preference to returned soldiers when filling vacant positions.

The public can and should co-operate heartily in this urgently necessary work, by encouraging the men to take fullest advantage of the curative and educational opportunities given them, and afterwards by seeing that they get work. Local committees have been formed for this purpose in many towns, but much more has to be done in this way.

The treatment, most carefully carried out in accordance with the latest discoveries and the proved results of medical experience, includes many forms of strengthening exercises, often requiring special and costly apparatus; the scientific use of electricity, massage, and continuous baths for affected limbs; with wise dieting and fresh air as a matter of course.

Occupation is often as necessary and beneficial as rest itself, in its curative and strengthening effect on body and mind. Classes are therefore held at the hospitals, for instruction and practice in many arts and industries, such as carpentry and wood-carving, metal and leather working, typewriting and book-keeping, mechanical drawing and elementary engineering, gardening, bee-keeping and poultry-raising.

These all help to increase the capacity of the patients, and to lessen the effect of any injury they have received, by getting them into practice for such industries as they can profitably undertake. The medical and educational officers try first to discover what each man is most likely to succeed at, and then to fit him for it as thoroughly as possible.

It has been wisely decided that no man shall forfeit any part of his pension on account of his industry and enterprise in improving his own financial position.

### N. B. FARMERS PROSPEROUS.

(Special Correspondence).

St. John, N.B.—Prices of farm produce have never been so high in this province as they are to-day. In some instances the farmers are getting double what they did a few years ago for their products. Potatoes are retailing at \$3.80 per barrel; butter at 45 and 50 cents; eggs at 50 cents per dozen, and everything else in proportion. This advance in price has been largely due to the demands that are coming from other provinces and from the West Indies. Thousands of barrels of New Brunswick potatoes have been shipped to the western provinces and to Cuba this year. The condition which prevails this year has served to emphasize the strength of the N. B.'s farmer's position. With a view to further improving the agricultural situation the provincial government has engaged the services of Prof. Mitchell, the famous live stock and dairy expert of Manitoba. It is his intention to promote an aggressive campaign along these lines. Experience has shown that New Brunswick is peculiarly adapted for stock-raising and dairying, so that a successful result of Prof. Mitchell's efforts may be looked for.