

IMMIGRATION.

Trade Will Not Flow Strongly For Over a Year.

Probably a year, or slightly more than a year, will elapse before the movement from Great Britain to Canada reaches a really large number, in the opinion of Hon. James A. Calder, Minister of Immigration and Colonization. Mr. Calder, who has returned to Ottawa, after an official trip to England and Scotland, finds that shipping conditions are at present operating to restrict the movement. Moreover, Canadian immigration agents overseas have instructions to take every precaution to see that no more people migrate to the Dominion than can at present be absorbed.

They advise persons not likely to find employment within a reasonable time of their arrival in Canada to defer their departure from England. Shipping agents, too, in view of the penalties to which they are liable for bringing unsuitable persons to the Dominion, are careful to scrutinize applicants for passages. In consequence, Mr. Calder asserts that Canada is securing a better and more suitable class of new citizens than ever before.

The shipping situation, however, prevents any immediate increase in the volume of immigration. Mr. Calder interviewed officials of the North Atlantic shipping conference, and was informed that accommodation on vessels coming to Canada was booked for about a year. In so far as the outlook for immigration in the future is concerned, it will depend a good deal upon economic conditions in Great Britain. For instance, Mr. Calder states that there is at present almost as great a shortage of domestic servants in England as in Canada. Women, who were trained for domestic service, found employment in industry during the war. They are only gradually leaving that field and returning to domestic service. The Minister of Immigration, however, found in Great Britain a feeling that a fairly serious unemployment situation might develop there in the near future. Such a condition would tend to drive people to seek homes and livelihoods in other countries. It has been variously estimated, moreover, Mr. Calder points out, that Great Britain has a surplus population over pre-war days of from 500,000 to 1,200,000. Before the war 250,000 people left Britain every year. At the same time, having regard to the shipping situation, Mr. Calder inclined to the view that immigration would not reach really large numbers for probably a year, or until the spring of 1922.

Merrifield, the Modest.

Pte. William Merrifield, now of Sault Ste. Marie, is, above all things a modest man, though a V.C. wearer. It is recalled of Merrifield that when he was returning home on the troop train with his unit, the 4th Battalion, he was hunted up by a reporter who was intent on getting the tale of how he won the V.C. Merrifield simply wouldn't talk about it. Perhaps he couldn't. Anyway, the scribe says that as he tried to get the soldier to "loosen up" the big drops of perspiration stood out on the hero's bronzed face. It was less of an ordeal to win the medal than it was to tell how it was won.

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Fighting the Plague.

In England, in 1665, when the plague was raging, tobacco was regarded as an excellent protection against infection.



From a painting by Knopp.

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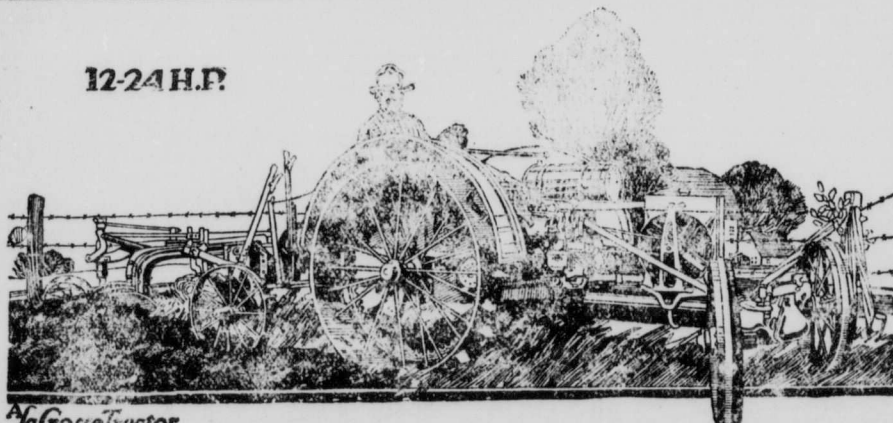
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