

prevented. Thus have we in our city, an excess of population which causes us annoyance. The exodus of farmers towards urban centres and, in an opposite direction, the influx of foreigners, is prejudicial both to the city and the hamlet. Such a situation leads to pauperism with its cortege of starving individuals who, sooner or later, become a danger to the community. This is what we may reasonably expect in the present conditions, aggravated as they are by the most terrible war the world has ever known. Truly, the problem we have to face is an arduous one.

Some say that the development of large cities has always the same effect in attracting a great number of people and that the mark is soon overreached, but they rely exclusively on local authorities to see that everything goes smoothly. This opinion is disputable.

Why not admit that there is another element partly responsible for the acute congestion we are suffering from, viz, the baneful tendency of our immigration system to gather in the large centres, in too many instances, the scum of foreign populations. Our city has had the saddest experience in this respect. There is not, in Montreal, a single organization whose object would be to attract and cause to settle in this district really desirable immigrants; but, on the other hand, our federal immigration bureau is splendidly efficient in the admittance of the sick and the undesirable. In fact, it is hardly anything but a hospital and a jail. Is there a profit?

As we see a way in which to remedy to this situation, we will resume it further on.