

# WESTMINSTER HALL MAGAZINE

## AND FARTHEST WEST REVIEW

FOR SOCIAL, LITERARY AND RELIGIOUS LIFE AND WORK  
INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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## Problems of Immigration

(By Principal Mackay)

### *V.—Immigration and Politics*

During the days when our population was increasing very slowly and was composed almost entirely of the best class of British settlers, we were accustomed to look with more or less smug complacency upon the political sins of our big neighbor to the south. But she has long since become conscious of her peril and is making heroic efforts to rid herself of the evils of corrupt politics, while we are following her bad example as fast as we can and failing to profit by her mistakes or by her splendid attempt to correct them. We are in grave danger of becoming the most corrupt of Anglo-Saxon peoples, if we have not already reached that unenviable position.

Our ideas of citizenship are so vague and indefinite that we allow streams of foreigners, who know nothing of democratic institutions, to gain the franchise after a brief residence in the country. The only training they receive in the meaning of democratic institutions is given them by the ward boss of their own race and the corrupt politician, and we expect them to be good material for the making of a great nation. Is it any wonder that one of these foreigners is said to have written home: "This is a great country to live in; they give you a thing called a vote that you can get two dollars for every now and then."

Already in hundreds of communities throughout Canada there are groups of foreign voters, each controlled by a boss, who gets for them enough favors to keep them in line and who turns them over wholesale to the party whose henchman he happens to be. The unlimited control of patronage makes this state of affairs possible and in some cases the evil has gone so far that even relief work instituted by the Government is only given to those who have been faithful henchmen of the powers that be. The foreign people who are coming to