

# The CANADIAN COURIER

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## Canada's Best Immigrants

By EMILY P. WEAVER

CANADA'S best immigrants are her English-speaking immigrants. This is incontestable, though far be it from us to disparage the excellent qualities of many of the foreign settlers. We have room in our vast fertile country for millions yet, and if we desire that the land shall have its millions, we may be thankful for the entrance of any immigrants sound in mind and body, who, even in the distant future, promise to make good Canadians or even to become the parents of good Canadians.

But in bidding welcome to these foreign thousands no patriotic Canadian wishes to endanger the customs, the habits of thought and the ideals that have made his country what it is. He wishes the Dominion to be and to remain a worthy member of the group of "Anglo-Saxon" nations; and looks towards the building up of one great united Canada, not a mere conglomeration of little Russias, new Scandinavias, and so forth. Immigrants from these countries and from others may and do contribute richly towards the building, but if it is to be fitly framed together it must have good binding material of some sort and this is surely best to be found in those who belong to our own race; who speak our own tongue; who read the same books as we read; who have been nursed in the same glorious traditions; who, whatever may be the failures in practice, cherish the same noble ideals of liberty and good government. It goes without saying that these, the kith and kin of her people, must be Canada's best immigrants, the only class in fact that she cannot do without, if she is to receive with safety the thousands of foreigners who annually enter her gates. Differences of language, race and education (or the lack of it) add to our social and political problems with every fresh party of foreigners, but the English-speaking folk strengthen the hands of the "native-born," and aid in the happy assimilation of the other newcomers.

Amongst the most immediately useful immigrants are the Americans of the farmer class. They enter the country singularly well equipped to make the best of it from a material point of view. These men know good land when they see it. They come in with experience and often with money gained where physical conditions strongly resemble those of the new country. They can afford to wait the short time that must pass before they can harvest their first crop and they know from the beginning what difficulties to expect. Throughout the West are to be found groups of such settlers. In Saskatchewan are many Americans, farming each a square mile or two with few men and the help of every labour-saving machine that can be pressed into service. One farmer from North Dakota, who came several years ago to the neighbourhood of Saskatchewan, owns two farms, together comprising 7,000 acres. To work these he uses four traction engines, twenty binders, and other machines in proportion. With one engine, by the way, he can seed 220 acres in a day.

Other Americans besides the farmers, if not to be counted in the very first class of immigrants, have yet been unquestionably useful in opening the country. These are the restless, pushing, advertising "pioneers" of townsites and new enterprises, who, finding the unexploited lands in their own

country almost at an end, have crossed the boundary and are now engaged with all their might in the congenial occupation of "boosting" new towns in Canada and, incidentally, of hurrying forward improvements, which the older, staidier inhabitants might have regarded as out of their reach for many a long day. One such American, engaged (it goes without saying) in the real estate business, exclaimed with virtuous indignation, "The trouble with you Canadians is that you have not faith enough in the country; it takes an American to teach you what it's worth." Once this may have

### CANADIAN IMMIGRATION, 1911.

The number of immigrants who arrived in Canada during the calendar year of 1911 is as follows:

United States .....	131,340
Great Britain .....	144,076
European .....	63,376
Miscellaneous .....	11,582
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>350,374</b>

The British immigration was divided as follows:

English .....	99,200
Welsh .....	1,771
Scotch .....	34,686
Irish .....	8,419
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>144,076</b>

been true, but it is not true now, of the West at any rate.

Some Canadians, by the way, are suspicious lest this enthusiasm of Americans for Canada may develop a wish for annexation. To me the fear seems groundless. In general the newcomers are far too busy trying to persuade prospective investors that their own little corner of the Dominion is the most highly favoured spot on earth to spare time for politics on a grand scale, and they live quite contentedly under the Union Jack. Indeed I fancy that the people who amuse themselves with flag-waving

are generally only tourists or transient visitors.

Nevertheless we cannot have too many good British immigrants to aid in the future development of Canada, as English, Scotch and Irish have contributed to her strength in the past; and at last they are coming by the thousands. The little Mother-Isle is sending us of her best, both sons and daughters, to assist in the making of the Dominion and to win for themselves prosperity. As one travels westward the British immigrants seem more and more in evidence, and the stories of many a stalwart Scot and sturdy Englishman—of good wives and fresh-looking girls, as well as men—would make a pleasant chapter in the history of this land of opportunities. For instance, I met one woman, who in her young days had worked in a Manchester factory, making "babies' velvet dresses at thirteen pence halfpenny a dozen," and "find your own thread." Now she and her husband are buying a lot in Vancouver, so that they may have a home of their own, and yet they venture to spend liberally on good violin lessons for their musical children.

I met with other women, who are in much improved circumstances through their enterprise in coming to Canada. As for the other sex, Britons are setting their mark on the country in a thousand ways; and, as business men, engineers, "sky pilots," farmers, they have opportunities for growth and work and stirring life, possible only to a very privileged few in the Old Country.

It is perhaps a little harder for the average Briton to become acclimatized here than for the American, but (the first two or three difficult years of adjustment to the new environment over) the man from the Motherland can hold his own with the best. With the object of inducing good British farmers to settle in Canada, and of minimizing the discomforts of their new start in life, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company has recently introduced the system of preparing "ready-made farms" for picked men; and already some of the farmers thus settled have become the most enthusiastic and effective of emigration agents to their fellow tenant-farmers in England. Now it is said that the Duke of Sutherland is planning "ready-made" Canadian farms for some of his tenants; and, if he thus induces thrifty Scotch farmers to settle in the West, he will be conferring a benefit both on them and on Canada.

Last year, and we may be thankful for so good a showing, more than half of the total homestead entries (exclusive of entries by Canadians) were made by Britons and Americans. It would be still more satisfactory were the proportion twice as high.

The analysis of Canadian immigration for last year, as shown in the table accompanying this article, is gratifying not only to those parts of Canada to which the great body of immigrants go, but to Canada as a whole. The immigration from Great Britain is well on to half the grand total, and that from the United States is far in advance of the total from continental Europe and the countries classed as miscellaneous. Canada is so big and offers so many opportunities that she welcomes assimilable immigrants from a great many countries. But naturally her preference is for people from the British Isles and from the United States. As long as the immigration statement is so satisfactory British ideals will not be endangered.



In twelve hours last July immigrants at Mirror, Alberta, bought land by auction to the value of \$251,648.