

Difference between British and American immigration.

United States, as well as from Eastern Canada, which, with proper regulation, kneads quickly into Canadian national life.

A special difference between immigration from the United Kingdom and the United States is that the former scatters all over Canada and is largely composed of wage earners; the latter is chiefly confined to the prairie provinces, and is predominantly of farmers accustomed to prairie life. Eastern manufactures would have been retarded without operatives from Britain; and agriculture, in Ontario for example, had and has great need of British labour.

Both qualities of immigration are equally necessary. The experience and ready adaptability of the American immigration to the West is invaluable. But it is not, and is not likely to become, common to the whole of Canada; even if the price of land in the West should remain so low, and the returns from it should keep so high, that the shrewd republican will continue to swarm thither.

Eastern situation intensifies the problem.

The desirability of immigration to the lands of Eastern Canada is just as obvious as, and is more complex than, immigration to the comparatively empty Western provinces. It has an important bearing on future immigration to the West; for new Eastern attractions presented where the immigrants are obtained, will place the drawing-power of the Western provinces in a slightly different perspective.

There is, consequently, a double problem—to provide settlers on the land in Eastern Canada; and to maintain the flow to the West. The sum of immigration should be increased. The methods used must be systematic and far-sighted, to secure the maximum efficiency and permanence of the incoming stream.

Desirability of British immigration.

The former Postmaster General, the Hon. Mr. Lemieux, in the House of Commons, laid it down as 'good policy to have the bulk of your immigration from the British Islands.' This view rests upon practical facts, other than those of racial similarity and traditional political unity. The governments of continental European countries oppose any Canadian emigration propaganda. The President of the Council and Minister of Industry and Public Worship in a letter to all prefects, of August 21 last, requested the widest publicity for a document strongly warning Frenchmen against emigrating to Canada. In the United Kingdom there is a growing willingness to encourage suitable emigration to Canada. With judicious handling we may ensure a permanent immigration of noticeably increased efficiency, at the minimum cost. By a statesmanlike course in immigration, Canada may not only build more rapidly her own nationhood, but may speedily achieve a peculiar leadership within the British Empire.