

be maintained throughout our plains far better than in the regions they left. None are more inclined to aid in working the local institutions. Even did not this mark them as effectively Canadian, even did their sentiments remain wholly American, there would be no menace in their presence on ground where their numbers are inconsequential. These have been exaggerated absurdly by reports of the Dominion immigration service, which, as if to further American immigration by a pretence that it has already been very large, group under the head of "from the United States" all the Europeans, and Canadians, who lingered for a while in the Republic. This has caused many unwittingly false press assertions that the West has been receiving American citizens at the rate of from fifty to eighty thousand a year. Yet, between 1896 and 1905, both years included, only 62,717 American citizens—men, women, and children—were estimated officially to have come in. No doubt this estimate was swollen by immigration service zeal. Were the service figures and the Government estimates of natural increase in the West alike correct, there would have been more than a million inhabitants of Manitoba Saskatchewan, and Alberta, in June 1906. Yet the Government census then found there only 808,000 persons. Applying the same scale of reduction to the previously alleged immigration of real Americans would indicate less than 50,000 "citizens" from the United States, of both sexes and all ages, in the three provinces. Probably there are not 20,000 mature male Americans in Canada west of Lake Superior. Most of them are believed to have become subjects of the king.

It seems invidious, if not ridiculous, to doubt that the institutions which Canadianized the heterogeneous elements that colonized our East will operate similarly in due time on the American as on every other element of our West. Certainly, our system will not make Britishers of the non-British, since Canada gradually makes not Britishers but Canadians of the children of English, Irish, and Scotch, just as fixed residence in Sussex would make Britishers of Canadian progeny. However, not to labour the point, it matters no rap to Canada's