

of the Dominion Government who advanced \$100,000 to the Mennonites settling in the North-West. In this case the money was lent upon the personal security of a committee of five, chosen from the Mennonites already settled in Ontario, as it might be required. The Mennonites coming from Russia appointed a committee of five, who in turn were responsible to the Ontario committee, each individual being responsible to this committee for the amount he borrowed. The whole of this loan has now been repaid with interest, after thirteen years. A few were obliged to mortgage their lands to repay the money lent. Of the old and incapable, a few were unable to repay the amount of their loan. These gave their farms to the committee and obtained their living in other ways. A few are now being supported by the Societies' poor fund. The personal obligations of settlers may be further supplemented by the security of the land, which, of course, by settlement and cultivation, increases in value; but it is evident that the repayment of the money thus advanced must depend upon character, thrift, and the natural desire inherent in average humanity, for independence. It is objected by some that the immigrant from Great Britain cannot accomplish what the Mennonites have done. This remains to be seen, but we do not believe it. If such is the case, and the burden of debt would be too great, a provision could be made for the repayment of a portion only of the money lent.

It will be patent to everybody that the success of any permanent system of assisted immigration operating upon these lines must depend largely upon the work of training, selection, and organization in Great Britain. There are some who advocate that this should be left with the Salvation Army. There is this much to be said for General Booth's creation as an agency for colonization: That it is in touch with the unemployed; as an organization it has been a wonderful success; it possesses the elements of cohesion, and with the home colony at Hadleigh the greater part of the machinery in Great Britain has already been perfected. But must all its settlers wear the red ribbon and beat the drum? We cannot, here, enter into a discussion of the religious side of the question, for, though it is pertinent to our subject, it will lead us too far afield. A more serious objection is that there is no guarantee that the necessary experience and discretion will be brought to bear in the selection of immigrants at home and their direction in this country. Moreover, the problem is a national one; there are other agencies besides the Salvation Army, of which one of the best known is the Home Colony Association with their training colony at Kendal; from the Department of the Interior at Ottawa we learn that there are no less than forty-five individuals and associations at the present time engaged in assisting people to emigrate from Great Britain to Canada, including those interested in Juvenile Immigration. We want the picked men from them all. The successful conduct of the work is fraught with difficulties and depends upon uniting the experience of settlers in this country with accurate knowledge of the unemployed at home. Disconnected or individual effort is sometimes aroused by motives of a personal nature which would be lost if merged in a comprehensive organization; but it has this inherent drawback, that the experience brought to bear is necessarily limited and men trained as leaders in the difficult work of colonization are not always available; it is better for the country to have no colony at all than one whose want of success is likely to prevent others from coming.

We have our patriotic societies in Canada, whose attention, we have advocated, might be actively turned to colonization and its many problems. Is it not possible to organize a counterpart in Great Britain of an equally broad and semi-national character in sympathy with the patriotic societies here?

We have a brilliant example in a remarkable movement lately inaugurated by the Chairman of the United States Irrigation Congress for transferring the unemployed from the overcrowded cities of the Eastern States to the irrigated lands of the West. This movement, which is led by a number of prominent Bostonians, including Dr. Everett Hale, Robert Treat Pain and Frank B. Sanborn, and has been started in the interests of the colonists, and not of any railway or land company, has received wide and most favourable notice from the Boston and New York papers and New England press, and enthusiastic meetings have been held in

Boston and other cities. A prominent feature is the establishment of colonial clubs in the cities, as a centre for all necessary information, and for the distribution of literature. In connection with these clubs it is proposed to establish a regular board of writers and to form a fund, upon the analogy of the Building and Loan Associations, for the assistance of indigent colonists. Are there not signs of a similar spirit in England, at present disconnected but active? We have seen a system of lectures on the colonies before working men's clubs started by Sir John Seeley; the active efforts of Lord Brassey in assisted colonization in our North-West are well known; and many clergymen and others are delivering gratis lectures upon Canada and Great Britain. A prominent man and a good organizer are wanted to start the ball rolling and form a permanent working association from the elements which have hitherto found expression in little more than talk, that will gather together the threads of disconnected effort including the advocates of Imperial Federation, the Salvation Army, and the numerous colonization agencies and representatives of labour unions. If an association of this kind could be formed, assisted by the press, in touch with the deserving unemployed and the experience of settlers in this country, it will be able to find an answer to this question. It may be said that such an organization would not pay. Granted! But the Boston movement was not started for profit. Lord Brassey, and, to go further back, Lord Selkirk, did not, in their efforts at colonization, work for pay. Neither do Sir John Seeley, Dr. Barnardo, and Miss Rye. The leading motives in each case have been philanthropy and the human and absorbing interest of the subject. There are sufficient men in England, Scotland and Wales, who, with literature supplied by the Government, and, perhaps, some financial aid, would find these motives sufficiently strong incentive for continued effort.

Our experiences with the Crofters of Skye, at Killarney, and Lord Brassey's colonists on the Bellwood Farm, would go to show the wisdom of adapting settlers to occupations for which they are best suited and of associating the less experienced with those, whose example and experience will be of assistance to them. We have before advocated the formation and management of infant colonies by the Government. It would not be difficult for the Government to set aside a portion of the land adjoining these colonies for the purpose of assisted immigration. It will, of course, be necessary to elaborate the details of some form of constitution after the manner of the Mennonites, with a committee of head men to keep the sub-colony together, assist with advice and attend to the collection of monies advanced to the settlers. At the start, however, the resident Government agent would be able to oversee and render any assistance and advice that may be necessary.

It is possible that some of the conclusions we have drawn may be disputed and, perhaps, some of our premises called in question.

The proper treatment of the subject, we frankly admit, requires a more extended knowledge than we possess of the unemployed and how to approach them, and a more intimate acquaintance with the details of experience in past attempts at the building of colonies from this class.

The importance of the question is admitted and a more or less intelligent interest in the subject is widespread. The solution of the problem has been delayed from the fact that it rests upon the right understanding of principles involving knowledge of human nature and familiarity with the conditions of life in two countries, principles too widely disconnected and complicated for any one man to master without the devotion of some years to the study. The lives and fortunes of human beings and the solution of this problem are too important to be made the subject of experiment, without taking every possible precaution that wisdom can suggest. At the same time thought and activity have been discouraged by the consciousness that any effort may result in nothing but an ephemeral and curious interest among a few.

The public conscience in England has of late years grown more sensitive to the necessities of the unemployed, and the problem of how to fill our country is ever present to the minds of the Canadian people.

If others more able should be led to demonstrate that a comprehensive system of assisted immigration is a possibility, a most important step will have been accomplished. The authorities in both countries might then deem it worth while