

As I stated at the outset, Canada has first to decide what her policy on immigration should be; and, secondly, what type of immigration she wants. I have submitted to you some of the arguments in favour of immigration. Now I would like to make some references to the type of immigration Canada should have. The Honourable Senator Roebuck, in speaking to his motion to set up this committee, made a very pointed observation when he said:—

And all along the journey, both north and south, lie millions of dormant acres waiting the turn of the plough. And as one travels on that long journey one cannot help but wonder how so small a population can maintain such a huge transportation system passing through so much empty space. 12,000,000 people cannot do it, and the reason is under-population, too few people to keep the wheels of industry turning.

We have to settle this vast country referred to by Senator Roebuck. In settling this land we should take into consideration that we would need people with pioneering vision, people with love for the land, and people who could face the shortcomings with staunch hearts and willing hands. I submit that the Ukrainian people who were brought to this country at the turn of the last century have amply demonstrated that they possess the qualities necessary for the building of the country. Let us analyse the contributions of these people to Canada in the last 50 years.

Major M. Syrotuck, a senior fieldman of the Live Stock and Poultry Branch of the Department of Agriculture, who has just returned from Europe, where he was an agricultural adviser to the British Military Government of Occupation writes:—

When one considers the days when the first Ukrainians came to Canada with no knowledge of the language, with nothing in their pockets but the price of a homestead entry fee, with no personal possessions but those contained in a knapsack strapped to their backs, with no buildings, no fencing, and no land under cultivation, it is little short of marvellous how well they have done for themselves since that time. Today the West is literally studded with farms of the most modern type owned by those former immigrants. And in many parts of the country much land that was considered unfit for cultivation has been turned to productive use by these persevering and thrifty settlers. Most decidedly the Ukrainians have proved to be a most constructive element in Canada, adding greatly to the wealth of this country.

In the early days of Canadian immigration much had been made of the so-called illiteracy of the early Ukrainian immigrant. But little attention has been paid to his latent and natural intelligence. The first batch of Ukrainian immigrants was recruited from the poorest classes, land-hungry peasants, who never had a chance to go to school. But they were intelligent peasants nevertheless; for they had to be, to get along as well as they did. The test of a man is what he does with the means at his disposal; and most certainly those people did much with so little. While they may have been illiterate themselves, yet they were intelligent enough to see to it that their children got an adequate education. One today could point out hundreds of cases where children of so-called illiterate parents attained the highest degree of education, in many instances with the highest distinction. Today honour students are no longer a rarity among Ukrainians, but a frequency.

Mr. F. T. Hawryliuk, Superintendent of Schools in Saskatchewan, writes:—

Their contribution to the teaching profession is an amazing record which gives some indication of the general level of educational uplift of the Ukrainians in Western Canada during the past forty years. In 1906