

Our greatest export to the United States ever since Confederation has been well educated men and women, tens of thousands of whom have taken their places among the professional and business leaders of their adopted land. These men and women we cannot hope to repatriate, because opportunities for them in Canada are not numerous enough. In truth, we continue to spend huge sums on the education of professional and business men and women in greater numbers than Canada is, in a position to absorb. The exodus of the intellectuals will continue so long as John Hopkins needs an Osler or a Barker, railway construction a Jim Hill, literature a Bliss Carman, and political life a Franklin Lane.

The men and women of whom Mr. Stewart is thinking are not the distinguished few, but the undistinguished many who cross the border in pursuit of fortune, as the Scot in the old land goes up to London. Many of them, especially those engaged in agriculture, would have done quite as well materially at home as they have in the United States, and would have been intellectually more satisfied than in the environment in which they now find themselves. This is no less true of the emigrant from the Maritime Provinces and Quebec to the New England States than of the Ontario men and women who in the years preceding the opening of our own West poured into Michigan, Minnesota, and the Dakotas.

Lord Shaughnessy points out that between 1911 and 1921 there was a natural increase of 1,836,000 and an immigration of 1,975,000. Yet the net increase of population was only 1,500,000, instead of more than double that number. We apparently lost all our increase by immigration, and far more. Making all due allowance for foreigners who were compelled to return to Europe on account of the war, the showing is far from satisfactory.

There are other facts of equal importance which also must be faced squarely and without bias. Canada has had smaller population and the consequently slower development of wealth than her all-absorbing, sponge-like neighbor to the South. Anglo-Saxon and Celtic strains thrown into pioneer conditions have produced an unusual proportion of keen brained men and women. Men and women whose chief assets were a self-reliant ability for leadership and a type of brain power which could find adequate scope for its fullest exercise only in the heart of a densely populated country. Pyramided on these developments, in which parent stocks and early conditions in the country have had a large part, is the freedom of thought and the deep-rooted desire for education which are Canada's inheritance from its pioneers—perhaps largely from those of Scottish blood.

With these facts in mind it needs but a glance at a map of North America to show why Canada became inevitably an exporter of brains. The export of intellectuals and potential millionaire executives is regrettable but the loss of hundreds of thousands of men and women who have made prosperous high class, undistinguished citizens of their adopted country is much more important. Call this a national disaster or merely a national misfortune, the fact remains that it was inevitable, and there arises from it a problem which can be phrased only in several questions. Is the exodus of old-stock Canadians still inevitable? What can we do to halt the ebb or at least to retard its flow? Have we been deliberately using an effective means to reduce our population during all these years of trying to increase it? Canada as a nation is adopting an enlightened immigration policy. What active steps can we take toward formulating a constructive and equally aggressive anti-emigration policy. It is no use to pour water into a sieve.