

## THE DISTRIBUTION OF IMMIGRANTS.

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The science of immigration may be said to have grown up in America during the past 25 years; any work previously undertaken, whether in the United States or Canada, having been carried out by governments or by companies, practically with the idea of finding the emigrant, bringing him to America, and then letting nature, chance, and the man's brain and brawn play each its part in his future and his influence upon the community.

The seemingly illimitable western areas made such a method, or absence of method, in the past appear perfectly rational, and on the whole it has resulted in creating, especially in the United States, communities and States where the immigrant, influenced by the native American environment, has become absorbed into the body politic, and a citizen of free Republics, to an extent and with a rapidity never paralleled elsewhere. Thus, the United States Census of 1900 shows in the 12 North Central States a population of over 26,000,000, of which only one-tenth, or 2,079,811, foreign born of voting age was not naturalized, and of this number 8.5 per cent were unable to speak English, and of the children of the foreign born but 2 per cent were unable to read and write.

To much the same extent the process of making Canadian citizens has been and is going on in Canada, which is now receiving nearly 400,000 immigrants annually.

But a change in the outlook upon immigration took place in the United States after 1880, when the demands of agriculture, but especially of industrialism, having largely exhausted the available supply of emigrants from northern Europe, called perforce to the southeastern and southern countries for new supplies. What this has meant is at least in part measured by the percentage growth of the cities as compared with the rural population, as illustrated in the following table:

[From United States census, 1910.]

|                          | Population. |            |            |            | Percentage of distribution. |       |       |       |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                          | 1910        | 1900       | 1890       | 1880       | 1910                        | 1900  | 1890  | 1880  |
| Urban <sup>1</sup> ..... | 42,623,382  | 30,797,185 | 22,730,223 | 14,772,425 | 46.3                        | 40.5  | 36.1  | 29.5  |
| Rural.....               | 49,348,883  | 45,197,390 | 40,227,491 | 35,383,345 | 53.7                        | 59.5  | 63.9  | 70.5  |
| Total.....               | 91,972,266  | 75,994,575 | 62,947,714 | 50,155,733 | .....                       | ..... | ..... | ..... |

<sup>1</sup> Urban unit, 2,500 population.