

IMMIGRATION TO THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

THE PROBLEM BROADLY STATED.

Immigration to Canada is the crucial economic factor in the progress of the Dominion. Every financial responsibility that has been assumed for the development of Canada, whether in pledging public credit for railways, or for civic expansion, or for industrial enterprises, has been assumed in expectation of a greater increase of population than the natural increase. With capital pouring in, chiefly from Britain, it is easy to confuse the prosperity that arises from expenditure which represents an obligation to pay interest, with the permanent prosperity that comes from increase of production from Canadian soil, mines, forests and waters.

Immigration a fundamental necessity of Government.

Continuous immigration to keep pace with, and get ahead of continuous inflow of capital is, therefore, a fundamental constructive necessity of government.

What a failure in this would lead to is suggested by the discrepancy of three quarters of a million between the estimated and ascertained census in 1911. Governments borrow their money and establish their credit on the number of people who pay tribute. If there be under-estimation of the cost of all-important works, and over-estimation of the number of people whose collective strength is the only strength of their governments, the first thing to do is to supply the deficiency of people. This is the more necessary if population has actually declined in certain localities.

The Census and Economics.

The expansion of modern Canada is the expansion of immigration. No other country has, relatively, such a record of assimilation of non-native peoples as Canada. Her naturalization laws give to any alien who takes the oath, the fullest rights of Canadian citizenship after three years' residence. Parliamentary representation may sometimes be determined by men with a slender knowledge of either of the national languages, and knowing less of our institutions.

Absorption of non-native peoples.

The difficulties of settlement in the prairie country which produced a large immigration, alien in race and speech, no longer exist; for, with widespread railway building there came an increasing immigration from the British Isles and the