

NATIONALITY

The question of nationality is an exceedingly important one as theoretically, of course, in dealing with a number of people whose average is under twenty, the inference is that Canadians would predominate, and would constitute at least seventy-five per cent of the total. It is somewhat surprising then to realize that they only make up 43.8%, the British born alone amounting to more than 23%, other nationalities contributing the remainder. Such facts as these are startling and cannot be ignored by those who have the future of Canada at heart. The obvious lesson is that supervision of immigration was not as careful in the past as it might have been.

It is true that at present the methods of inspection at Canadian ports are infinitely better than they were, and since the advent of the Federal Board of Health there has been an intelligent effort made to scrutinize the mentality of those arriving, but the difficulties are great and the cost of such inspection is necessarily high. When it is realized though that practically every failure costs the country a large sum of money, it becomes apparent that the cheapest plan is to provide adequate inspection.

Every one admits that we must have immigration on a large scale, but it is absolutely essential that this immigration must be of the right type. It is a simple matter to show the price we pay for inspection.

Here is a case which illustrates our point. Maggie C., a young woman of thirty, came to Canada twenty-five years ago. Her history was, that she could not learn anything at school, could not read, and was not able to write her name. Had a pleasing manner though, and like many defectives had some manual dexterity, learning to sew very well.

She began to drink gin and Scotch whiskey at an early age and followed a life of prostitution, finally giving birth to a child. She developed an acute form of dementia praecox, and as she said, passed through every gaol in London as a result of her many escapades. Eventually was confined in a home for inebriates where she gave little trouble. The "Lady Superior" said that a colony was the place for Maggie, as there she would get the benefit of new associations and surroundings, so the poor girl was deliberately shipped to Canada, and a place found for her as a domestic. At the end of the month she received her wages which she spent on whiskey and gin, and was at once confined in the gaol, where her mental condition was recognized and she was sent to an asylum where she has remained ever since. In other words, at the end of a month's residence in Canada Maggie became a public charge. Figuring her maintenance at \$350, per annum, a modest estimate, she has already cost the Province of Ontario \$8750, and if interest were compounded and overhead charges compiled it is readily seen why such people are not a profitable investment.