



Vol. XX.

WINNIPEG, CANADA, JUNE, 1915.

No. 6.

THE head of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company is quite confident that a heavy tide of immigration will move in the direction of Canada at the close of the European War. The same belief is confidently expressed by others who are no less likely to know about the trend of things, and the man in the street has the same intuitive feeling.

It is perfectly natural that the first effects of Freedom's victory would be a strong desire for nationalization in the fairest democracy on earth—a country whose every institution is founded on the broad lines of liberty, in which the individual is guaranteed the right to live in perfect security, it might be said, right up to the border land of license.

If this hope materializes, it will be a good thing for the immigrant. It can also be made a good thing for Canada, but that will entirely depend upon the character of the immigrant, and the way in which the "tide" of immigration is handled. Where do we stand to-day as we face the record of our past experiments in dealing with immigration?

Within recent date the Mayor of Winnipeg was taken to task by an Ottawa correspondent on

AN IMMIGRATION POLICY

"If We But Had Our Way."

By the Editor.

the subject of his statements made in that city at a conference of mayors before the federal government. The business of the conference was that of the big army of unemployed in Western Canadian cities. To the observations of the Ottawa newspaper man the Mayor of Winnipeg addressed the following reply:

"I cannot accept responsibility for the conception which one side of political journalism or another places upon my statement. The question of how to deal with the vital problem of the unemployed willing workers so abnormally numerous in Canada at the present time, is not a subject for party political discussion, but has reached the proportion of a national problem, which the federal, provincial and civic governments must solve.

While I do not remember the

exact words which I used in speaking at the conference with the government, I know what I wanted to say, namely: That the late government inaugurated and the present government has largely adopted the immigration policy known as the Sifton immigration policy, whereby tens of thousands of Ruthenian, Polish, Russian, German, Austrian and other European settlers have come to Canada. That the great majority, over three-fourths, of such settlers were agriculturists in their own country prior to immigrating to Canada. That about 25,000 of such immigrants of foreign birth are to-day living in the cities of Western Canada, chiefly in Winnipeg, practically destitute, unable to get work and unable to go on the land, because they have no money. The question

that I would like to have the immigration department answer is not how many immigrants of this or that nationality they have lured to the west by visionary statements; but this one, namely: If they bring only agriculturists to this country, as they say they do, why is it that less than 35 per cent of them go on the land? If they are brought here to farm our vacant land, why are they dumped into Winnipeg or some other western city, and left there to become city dwellers, consumers, and in the present case, an army of idle men willing to work, but with nothing to do, their previous occupation of city and railway building having ceased.

If the government intended them to go on the land, a laudable and practical intention, why don't they finish the job and put them on the land? Why should they be idle and a charge on the cities, when there is so much vacant land to cultivate? This is not a question for silly political juggling. It is a vital national problem too big and important to be befogged by departmental statistics which only state part of the facts.

We are not so much concern-



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