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EDITORIAL.

A Restricted Immigration.

A proposal has been made that the immigration door of the Dominion should be thrown wide open for the admission of Chinese, Hindus and like classes, to provide cheap labor during the constructive era through which the country is now passing. Especially is it claimed that the Western Provinces need them for the more menial occupations, so-called, and the country east, west and middle for the rough labor of railway construction. If the first business of Canada is to pile up wealth in the hands of the few, the proposition will commend itself as likely to facilitate that process; but if the purpose of our efforts at nation-building is to produce an enduring race of men of high character, the attainment of that end will be made difficult, and in a large measure frustrated, by the plan proposed.

The present population of Canada is made up chiefly of descendants of the people of the British Isles and the nations of northern and western Europe, in the main a good secure foundation stock, the homogeneity of which we do well to preserve.

The fact is now very generally recognized that, in view of its extent of arable land, natural resources and concomitant advantages, Canada presents inducements to immigrants and investors which cannot be duplicated by any other land. This was not always the case, but the tide of population and capital is now flowing hitherward, and we need not be greatly concerned to hasten the overflow of the former from lands where the conditions of life are less favorable. We can afford to apply in some measure the principle of selection. The Government of the country professes to establish and maintain such conditions as will conserve to the people, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Professedly for the material benefit of the people and the development of industry, this country utilizes, to some extent, the protective principle in her tariffs, so as to restrict foreign competition. As to the economic virtue of the policy, people are not all agreed, but surely there is at least greater reason for safeguarding our future as a people from the undesirable and the unfit. In fact, we have done it already by the per capita tax on the Chinese and by deporting the physically degenerate.

We need population. That is admitted; and we need more railways—but we will be a better nation, and our development will be more satisfactory and secure if we take our time about both. Under present reasonable safeguards, let us welcome our kinsfolk from the British Isles and the types of north-western Europe who have done well with us in the past, adapting themselves readily and thriving under Canadian conditions and institutions. Even as it is, too many morally undesirable have been crowding in. The Grand Jury at Winnipeg, in their presentment, the other day, were compelled to make the following significant observation: "We regret to note the increase in crime in this judicial district, as evidenced by the large number of cases brought before us. A large percentage of these cases originate among what is called the foreign element. We hope that in time these people will learn to appreciate the privileges and liberties we have in Canada, and become, as a class, law-abiding citizens."

The argument has been advanced that we do well to encourage the inflow of Eastern races in order to Christianize them. Without venturing to offer expert testimony on such a point, we believe it to be the lesson of history that that object can better be accomplished in the native

habitat of these people, under the well-tested missionary system of the past hundred years.

Thus far, some 1,500 Hindus are reported to have reached British Columbia, and the majority of those employed are in the sawmills. The racial, social, climatic, economic and other conditions are all adverse to the natives of India, and those who have been encouraging the immigration should stop it voluntarily, for the added reason that these people have a British status. We are pleased to note that Mr. T. C. Mazoondar, of the University of Allahabad, as a commissioner to British Columbia, has, after a careful investigation, reported against the emigration, and has advised the press of the Punjab to use every effort to cause its cessation.

Suppose the new railways of Canada cannot be built quite so rapidly; that is not a very serious matter. The cheaper labor would benefit chiefly a few contractors. Better pay a little higher rate of wages to a class of people who will spend more in the country, and give out more of the work to the new settlers who are filling up the districts through which the lines are being run.

If they remained in the country at all after the railways were constructed, these alien navvies would want to settle in communities, and our experience of that sort of thing in the West has been bad; and if they married with our own people, the results would probably be worse.

For purposes of unholy greed, the United States, half a century ago, allowed an alien race to be poured into the South, and the penalty was four years of bloody war, and a race problem still unsolved.

The latter may be an extreme example, but it emphasizes the lesson we are seeking to draw, that this country should discourage the coming of the undesirable, and adopt special measures, if need be, to promote the immigration of our kinsfolk of the British Isles and the European peoples who, in color, racial characteristics and aspirations, correspond with the foundation stock of the Dominion. The difficulties in respect to our foreign relations are apparent, but should not be beyond the resources of modern statesmanship and diplomacy. In the main, the civilization, humane spirit and progress of the white races, under the ægis of Christianity, commend themselves to the enlightened Eastern leaders, and they probably discern that they stand to gain by the open-door policy on their part.

Canadian Dairymen Stand Comparison.

We have recently had a fine example of how truths stated without adequate complementary assertion may be perverted to unfair conclusions. At the medical congress in Toronto, Prof. Harcourt, of the Ontario Agricultural College, read a timely paper on the control of milk supply, criticising the manner in which milk is kept and handled in Canada, and adding his opinion that if a commission were appointed to investigate the conditions under which milk is handled and delivered to the consumer, its report would be as bad as the revelations relating to the meat-packing plants of Chicago.

As might be expected, this one point of Prof. Harcourt's address has been bruited about without its context, and, reaching the Old Country, has aroused a real or feigned concern of the press, and we in Canada are now being regaled on warmed-over editorials of Old-Country papers, commenting inferentially in alarmist tones on the quality of the cheese made in a country where such things may be said of the local city milk supply.

That the press alarm will have any serious effect on the price of our export cheese, is improbable, for it holds too well-deserved a place

in British esteem, and consumers will wisely reflect that its quality has not been affected one way or the other by newspaper notoriety.

Now, there is every reason to believe that Prof. Harcourt's indictment of our milk producers is not overdrawn, and, while on the subject, we may as well make a clean breast and say that the average milk supplied to our creameries and cheese factories is little better than that retailed in our cities and towns. But we hasten to add what we believe Prof. Harcourt himself would have added had he expected such publicity, that Canada is better than most other countries—probably better than Britain herself. Certainly, there is no comparison between our dairy products and the average of those in the neighboring Republic. We are away ahead, not only in care of raw material, but in cleanliness and skill of our cheesemakers and creamerymen. Therefore, there is no occasion for discrimination against Canadian dairy products—rather the reverse.

The crux of the matter is that the conditions of milk supply (which should be more carefully supervised than any other phase of human food supply) have been sadly neglected in this and other countries. It is time the searchlight of public investigation, which has disclosed so effectually the raw spots of the meat trade, should be turned on the milk business. We need not pause to enumerate the dozens of common ways in which milk may suffer bacterial contamination, but may simply point out that for one chance of pork or beef being rendered impure and unwholesome in an ordinary abattoir, there are probably ten chances of milk being injuriously affected. Hygienists have long deplored the indifference of producer and consumer towards the matter of cleanliness in dairying; but so accustomed are we to dirt and germ pollution that it is only when the milk sours more promptly than usual that we think about germs, and it is only when an outbreak of typhoid occurs that the ordinary person gives any thought whether the cows that furnish his baby with milk drink from a clean trough or from a miry barnyard pond. We believe the majority of Canadian dairymen exercise care in these respects, and there are many good wells being sunk every year, but there are few of us, indeed, who need not improve in the matters of water supply, stable sanitation and personal cleanliness, and there are some who should not be permitted to keep cows at all until they have been made to do as the packers did—clean up. However, so long as they may be careless with impunity, some will disregard ordinary decent precautions to insure cleanliness. It is true most cities make some attempt at inspection of the dairies from which vendors procure their supplies, but often the inspection is superficial and much too lenient. The very best dairymen are taking only proper care of their milk, and the majority are far behind these. Inspection could do no one any harm, for it costs no more to produce clean than impure milk, if a man sets himself conscientiously about it.

It is of interest to note, in this connection, for the assurance of our Old Country friends, that a feeling is growing among our leading dairymen of Ontario favoring a law to provide for thorough inspection of dairies supplying milk to co-operative creameries and cheese factories. We beg also to remind them: that the latter are under careful sanitary supervision by a staff of Government inspectors, specially appointed for that purpose. The consideration given these radical steps is evidence that Canada is by no means indifferent concerning the kind of dairy produce sent across the water to paternal John Bull. Canadian dairymen are far from perfect, but they can well stand comparison with other countries.