

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S AGENT GENERAL ON EMIGRATION TO CANADA: AN INTERPRETATION

(By E. B. Buchan, Reesor.)

NOTE: Canada is vitally concerned in Emigration and Immigration, and British Columbia, which contains the Dominion's Perennial Port, as we have christened Vancouver city, has a peculiar interest in what has been done, or may now be done, in these matters. Hence we welcome these contributions.

(Editor B. C. M.)

Does Great Britain want Canada?

Does Canada need Great Britain?

These questions were not asked, nor even hinted at, in the address made by Mr. F. C. Wade, British Columbia's Agent General in the United Kingdom, before the members of the Canadian Club, Vancouver, during the luncheon hour on June 23rd; but, standing in the hotel rotunda, walking in twos and threes along the business streets, or meeting in different offices during the afternoon, men and women of Vancouver put these questions plainly to one another as though, through the words spoken by Mr. Wade, their thoughts had been penetrated with the truth—"that to each one is given the power of decision as to whom Canada will belong in future, and what race of men will be responsible for her weal or woe."

Mr. Wade had talked about "Emigration from the British Isles to the Dominion of Canada."

"Unquestionably Canada must keep her place with the British Empire; it is unbelievable that Canada will tolerate a thought that would remove her one hair's breadth from the Mother Country!" everyone exclaimed in the heat of patriotism; but sentiment will not overcome selfishness, and it was to the undoing of selfishness that Mr. Wade's words winged their mark—seemingly unconsciously on his part.

How many British Columbians have expressed impatient uncharitableness, since the war years, when the matter of British emigration to the vast unsettled tracts of this province has been advocated publicly and discussed privately?

"Look at our own men and women out of work; why should we bring in others whom we may have to help?" And this sentiment expressed by all was backed by an individual case in the thoughts of each.

"We have managed to get along; let others do the same without hampering our pace."

"Orientals? Yes. But they don't bother us. We feel neither moral nor financial responsibility for them; more than that, they do their work and keep out of our way."

"Italians? Greeks? Russians? Germans? Turks? French? Swedes? and other people of many languages from as many foreign countries? Yes, we trade with them, employ them,

sentimentally aid them in their patriotic celebrations to their father- and mother-lands, but—they are not of us, so why consider them?

"English? Scotch? Irish? Yes, and if they come, then what? They are our own flesh and blood. They want to say what shall be done and what shall not be done. They force their ideas upon us and will take no back seat. They have a right to all that we, who have lived longer in Canada, have a right to—and we want none of them. We, individually, as older-timers, are sufficient unto ourselves. . . ."

Isn't that about it?

It is well that Mr. Wade has given us an opportunity to step to one side and look at ourselves, for, if we have hitherto neglected self-observation, we may be sure that others have not been so slow to see us as we really are, and that peoples from the Orient and from the many other lands have taken our measures and have adjusted their living to our fit.

"Canadians do not want their own kin," these foreigners say to each other in languages that Canadians do not understand. "They won't tolerate family interference and criticism. So? They like not-to-be-bothered; they like much to be waited upon; they feast themselves upon their thoughts of superiority to foreigners—Yes? When we so well understand, we give them what they want NOW. . . . Bye and bye? THEN will come our turn. Our children are benefiting well by their teaching, by the learning of their laws and giving obedience to them. . . . When they are grown and their children's children learn from them, who then shall make the laws? Who shall own and rule the land? Not the children of their own people whom they will not permit to enter Canada, their brothers and sisters with whom they refuse to share their Canadian birthright, but the children of the outsiders who now wait upon them but do not bother; who make them feel big without ourselves feeling small; we will be the Canadians, but not in a Canada that will be a part of the British Empire. . . . Oh, no!"

And that is the train of thought, and expressed speech, that Mr. Wade's words have awakened in Vancouver today.

SOME THOUGHTS ON IMMIGRATION

(By Rev. F. W. Cassillis-Kennedy, M.A.)

To be the possessors of a glorious heritage such as Canada is, entails a heavy responsibility. The population, at present, is about 8,769,489, and as the area approaches 3,620,000 square miles, we have only 2.4 people to every square mile in the Dominion. It has been through immigration, chiefly that Canada has been thus peopled, for the Minister of Immigration and Colonization tells us that during the last ten years, alone, 3,428,834 immigrants have come to our shores from other lands. The considerations which have influenced us in the past regarding immigration have been: Sympathy for those whose lot is less fortunate than ours; a generous desire to share with them the freedom and happiness we enjoy; and the great wish to develop as speedily as possible our great natural resources, and to become rapidly a prosperous people holding a foremost place among the nations in the world.

Canadians returning from Europe bring back the information that post-war conditions are proving so unbearable in many European countries that the prospect of migration

to Canada seems to offer even more advantages at the present than in previous years, and that millions would endeavour to enter Canada now if economic conditions made it possible.

Selective Immigration.

There are many aspects of immigration which present themselves for deliberation, but probably the most important is the one least taken into consideration, namely, its far-reaching biological effects on the character of our citizens as a whole. We ought to be more careful in the selection of the people we receive within our doors. We should desire to breed men and women of high standards; of strong bodies, sound minds and good morals. Since the Medical Act came into force, in 1902, out of 55,180 immigrants held for reception 13,221 were rejected for various reasons; this shows that the Government, through the agency of the Immigration Department, is trying to keep up the standard, as to efficiency, in health matters. The all-important thing for us to remem-

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