

The immigrants bring greater assets than we sometimes realize. Many of them have small financial resources but they are endowed with a capacity for patient industry. Not a few of them have skill and training in various crafts and show boundless ambition.

The members of each nationality bring with them a rich and varied culture. Many a peasant, clad in sheep skins, possesses artistic abilities of no mean order. Our literature, our music and our art, let it not be forgotten, we owe largely to Europe. The immigrant comes to enrich and re-vitalize our cherished store.

Further, the immigrants are imbued with a reverence and a patriotism which we need in this new and commercialized country of ours. Through the centuries they have struggled for the liberty which we have largely inherited. They have kept alight the fires which in our materialistic American civilization burn but feebly. Perchance the immigrant has come to reinforce some of those institutions which were in danger. His coming is undoubtedly compelling us to make deeper and broader the foundations of our national life.

The problem after all is possibly not so much the problem of the immigrant as the problem of the Canadian.

There is a danger that the immigrants may accept the lower rather than the higher things in our Canadian life. The immigrants as a rule come into contact with our least worthy institutions. They meet Canadians who, to say the least, are far from representing Canadian ideals. Canada, it must be remembered, is for the majority of the immigrants nothing more than the factory, the low-grade lodging house, the cheap show, and a narrowly restricted circle of interests.

In the case of the children of the immigrants there is an added danger which is not generally recognized. The boys and girls, catching the prevailing attitude of contempt for "foreigners," come to despise their foreign-born parents. They fail to appreciate their excellent qualities. As far as possible they withdraw from and repudiate everything not Canadian—as they know Canada.