

Scotchmen, and so we are being gradually enabled more and more to visualise the conditions and to feel the impulses of life throughout the whole Empire, to incorporate them into our constitution and growth, to spiritualise and idealise them. Any man who has lived and thought for the last twenty-five years can see the growth of this Imperial consciousness—almost its birth. In a word, the Empire must find its soul, and then organise to ensure its salvation. When we fully realise that this Empire is no longer an abstraction, but a real, splendid entity with living ideals and soulful purpose and tendency, then we shall organise, and then we shall save the Empire.

THE FORCES THAT HELP.

Do you not see the almost numberless and the absolutely invincible elements . . . work to-day to develop that Imperial consciousness? Every man who travels from this country into one of the oversea Dominions is contributing his share. Every telegram that flashes news of the outside parts to you and to us in the outside Dominions from you is doing its share. Every man and woman who, at the fireside or in the school, in magazine or newspaper, on the platform or in the pulpit, teaches what is the breadth and greatness and significance of this Empire, is doing his part; and the multiplied societies and associations whose names are so many that I cannot enumerate them, the legislators in our halls, and the merchants in their offices, are all helping towards a wide Imperial consciousness and working towards an organised plan for the realisation of the ideal which springs therefrom. As we gain that Imperial consciousness, we shall take an Imperial view of certain things to which we have been rather directing ourselves from the smaller national or sectional side. We must reverse that operation—not to the abandonment of the latter, but to the inclusion of the Imperial side as well.

EMPIRE VIEW OF MIGRATION.

One of the questions we ought to view from the Imperial side is the movement of population. Within the Empire, containing 400,000,000 of people, there are only 65,000,000 of the white race, 45,000,000 here and the rest in the outside Dominions. If this Empire is to remain a British Empire and its civilisation to remain British, the British stock must be increased rather than diminished, because other stock is flowing into the vacant spaces of the Empire. You have an idea that the United States, for example, is absorbing a lot of people from outside and that to assimilate them is a great task. But the United States has 90,000,000 of people. It receives for assimilation 1,000,000 yearly. It has 92 people to mother and father each new-comer. Take Canada. This year Canada will perhaps find 500,000 people coming in from abroad. Our population is only 8,000,000. Canada therefore has only 16 people to father and assimilate each new-comer. The problem, I say, is to keep the British stock dominant. You can do it only in two ways—by assimilation, or by actual injection of new British stock. I am not going to put theories before you; but what is the condition in this country? Until comparatively recently, nobody thought about emigration at all. The out-goer went, as and whither he pleased, and in the century that has just passed many many millions of good British stock have filtered out from this country—not to the waste places and vacant spaces of British Possessions, but to alien and foreign countries. If that blood had been directed into the veins of our oversea Possessions, what a different aspect they would have presented to-day. The current is changing somewhat, but not because of united consultation and plan, and scientific endeavour; but while forty per cent. of British stock, leaving this country, fail to come into British Dominions, things are not as they ought to be and might be. Great Britain