

altogether too great disproportion since it was held that while the Austrians gave 33 per cent. of the above jail population, they should only have contributed 8 per cent., and the Russians 1 per cent. instead of 11. But it seems evident that of the 449,443 foreign-born in the three prairie provinces, this large proportion of misdemeanors on the part of the foreign-born may not be altogether due to innate viciousness or defect. For of the Ukrainians, who have been frequently included under the designation Austrian, 39.8 per cent. were unable to speak English, while 35 per cent. of the Austro-Hungarian, 27.2 per cent. of the Poles, and 27.1 per cent. of the Russians were in the same plight. It may be that of the 400 admissions to the jails the high percentage of the foreign-born may be, in part at any rate, due to ignorance of Canadian language, laws and institution, rather than to any inherent mental defect.

This problem, then, of how far the alien immigrants contribute to the total of mental deficiency, insanity and criminality is an intricate and even a delicate one if injustice would be scrupulously avoided. The general impression is that a contribution all too great is made by the foreigner, and that if immigration of foreign-speaking peoples were prohibited entirely, or if they were more rigorously examined at the port of entry a number of these difficulties would be eliminated. The policy of absolute exclusion would no doubt be effective if it could be carried out, but a number of other things would also be eliminated along the lines of industry and production. Prohibit the entrance of the foreigner and thousands of acres of the virgin soil remain untouched, railways must remain as they are, if indeed they do not deteriorate, and the wealth of many mines abides in the earth. The more rigid examination of incoming immigrants becomes, then, not only a necessity but a court of last resort, and the question arises, are our immigrant officials being given time and adequate facilities for the examination of all immigrants and the exclusion of those whose entrance is prohibited by law? And how does Canada compare with the United States in this policy? Now, both countries exclude the idiot, the imbecile, the feeble-minded, and the insane. Yet in 1913-14 out of a total of 1,197,892 immigrants entering the United States, there were rejected 18 idiots, 537 imbeciles, 198 insane, a total of 753, or a ratio of 1 to 1,590. In Canada for the same year there were 384,878 immigrants, and there were rejected 2 idiots, 21 imbeciles, 15 insane, a total of 38, or a ratio of 1 to 10,127. If the type of people had been approximately the same, and the methods of examination the same, and the ratio the same, Canada should