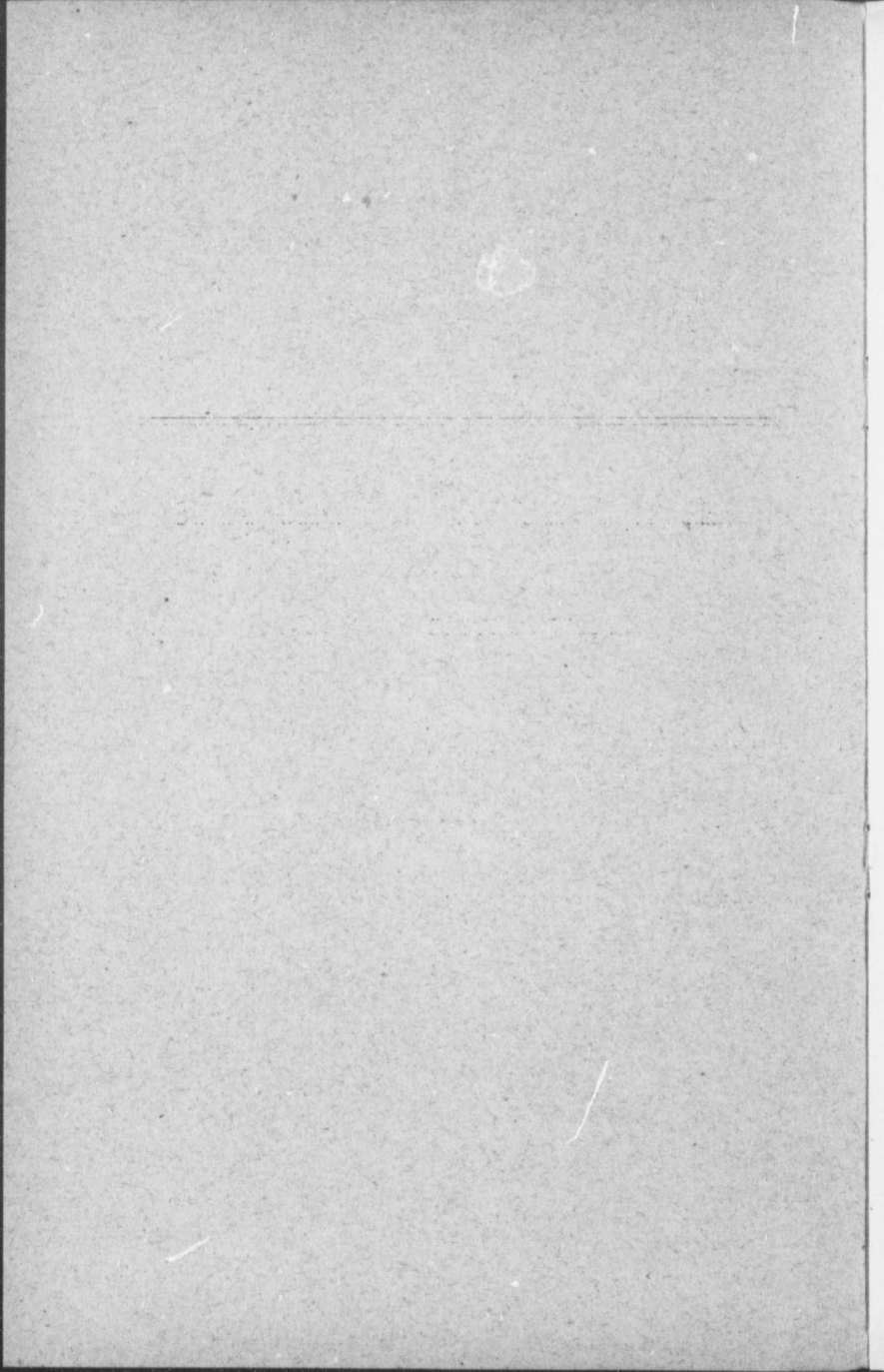

THE DISTRIBUTION OF IMMIGRANTS

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The science of immigration may be said to have grown up in America during the past 25 years; any work previously undertaken, whether in the United States or Canada, having been carried out by governments or by companies, practically with the idea of finding the emigrant, bringing him to America, and then letting nature, chance, and the man's brain and brawn play each its part in his future and his influence upon the community.

The seemingly illimitable western areas made such a method, or absence of method, in the past appear perfectly rational, and on the whole it has resulted in creating, especially in the United States, communities and States where the immigrant, influenced by the native American environment, has become absorbed into the body politic, and a citizen of free Republics, to an extent and with a rapidity never paralleled elsewhere. Thus, the United States Census of 1900 shows in the 12 North Central States a population of over 26,000,000, of which only one-tenth, or 2,079,811, foreign born of voting age was not naturalized, and of this number 8.5 per cent were unable to speak English, and of the children of the foreign born but 2 per cent were unable to read and write.

To much the same extent the process of making Canadian citizens has been and is going on in Canada, which is now receiving nearly 400,000 immigrants annually.

But a change in the outlook upon immigration took place in the United States after 1880, when the demands of agriculture, but especially of industrialism, having largely exhausted the available supply of emigrants from northern Europe, called perforce to the southeastern and southern countries for new supplies. What this has meant is at least in part measured by the percentage growth of the cities as compared with the rural population, as illustrated in the following table:

[From United States census, 1910.]

| | Population. | | | | Percentage of distribution. | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 1910 | 1900 | 1890 | 1880 | 1910 | 1900 | 1890 | 1880 |
| Urban ¹ | 42,623,382 | 30,797,185 | 22,730,223 | 14,772,425 | 46.3 | 40.5 | 36.1 | 29.5 |
| Rural..... | 49,348,883 | 45,197,390 | 40,227,491 | 35,383,345 | 53.7 | 59.5 | 63.9 | 70.5 |
| Total..... | 91,972,266 | 75,994,575 | 62,957,714 | 50,155,773 | | | | |

¹ Urban unit, 2,500 population.

This accentuation of the urbanizing tendency, especially since 1900, with the slum congestion of cities has in the United States called forth loud protests against immigration in general, while societies for restricting it have been formed and legislative enactments passed, tending, if not to prevent, at any rate to be selective as to the physical, mental, and industrial status of the newcomer. A similar process of selection of immigrants has been gradually evolved in Canada, where immigration has flowed with increasing velocity since 1900; but it was early recognized by the Government that, to populate the immense untilled areas of the western plains, some very definite scheme had to be adopted. To this end the Federal Government formulated a policy of bonusing companies who brought bona fide agriculturists to Canada, and as these western prairies were Federal lands its energies were directed to placing as many immigrants as possible upon homesteads there, under very generous conditions as to residence and cultivation. Special trains, each carrying a Government officer to supervise the needs of the immigrants, went from eastern seaports direct to Winnipeg and a hundred other western centers of settlement, where were immigrant barracks and a land officer of the Government who took a general oversight of the arriving immigrants, directed them to where homesteads could be examined, and generally advised them till settled on the land. The results of the national increase of the population of Canada, and the influx of immigrants during the 1901 and 1911 period, are seen in the following table:

[From Canada Census, 1901-1911.]

| | 1911 | 1901 | Increase. | Percentage. |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Alberta..... | 374,008 | 73,022 | 301,646 | 413.08 |
| British Columbia..... | 392,489 | 178,657 | 213,832 | 119.68 |
| Manitoba..... | 469,614 | 255,211 | 200,403 | 78.52 |
| New Brunswick..... | 351,889 | 331,120 | 20,769 | 6.27 |
| Nova Scotia..... | 492,338 | 459,574 | 32,764 | 7.13 |
| Ontario..... | 2,623,274 | 2,182,947 | 340,327 | 15.58 |
| Prince Edward Island..... | 93,728 | 163,259 | -9,531 | 19.23 |
| Quebec..... | 2,002,712 | 1,648,898 | 353,814 | 21.46 |
| Saskatchewan..... | 492,432 | 91,279 | 401,153 | 439.48 |
| Yukon..... | 8,512 | 27,219 | -18,707 | 108.73 |
| Northwest Territories..... | 17,196 | 20,129 | -2,933 | 15.79 |

† Decrease.

Equally remarkable, as in the United States, is the increase in urban population in Canada in spite of all the efforts made to distribute agriculturists on the land. Thus:

Percentage of urban and rural population in Canada.

| | 1911 | Per cent | 1901 | Per cent. | Increase. | Percentage increase. |
|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|
| Urban..... | 3,280,444 | 45.55 | 2,021,799 | 37.6 | 1,258,645 | 62.25 |
| Rural..... | 3,924,394 | 54.33 | 3,349,516 | 62.4 | 574,878 | 17.16 |
| Total..... | 7,204,838 | | 5,371,315 | | | |

It will be seen by comparing this with the preceding table from the United States census, that, in spite of all the efforts of the Canadian Government, the urban increase in Canada has been relatively greater than in the United States, so that the urban percentage ratio of population in Canada is within 1 per cent of being as great as that in the United States.

Percentage of urban to rural population.

| | United States. | | Canada. | |
|---------------------|----------------|------|---------|------|
| | 1910 | 1900 | 1910 | 1900 |
| Urban..... | 46.3 | 40.5 | 45.55 | 37.6 |
| Rural..... | 53.7 | 59.7 | 54.33 | 62.3 |
| Urban increase..... | 5.8 | | 8.78 | |

Now, however satisfactory, from certain commercial standpoints, these urban increases may appear, yet the fact that the United States cities have had added 11,826,198, and the Canadian cities 1,258,645, or 38 per cent in the one case, and 62 per cent in the other in 10 years, forces upon the United States, and still more upon Canada, a problem remaining as yet largely unsolved. While the number of immigrants annually arriving in Canada at present is nearly five times as great compared with the total population, as in the annual immigration in 1911, to the total population of the United States, making a relatively much larger number to be fed, and proportionately higher prices, yet the disproportion in their distribution, judged by the census figures in both countries demands in Canada, equally with the United States, the most serious inquiry by all sociologists, economists, and statesmen. The situation in both countries is rendered the more acute, inasmuch as the older States and Provinces have again in the last census shown a very serious decline in their rural population.

Percentage of population in the United States in 1910.

| Distribution. | Total. | Urban. | Rural. |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| New England..... | 7.1 | 12.8 | 2.2 |
| Middle Atlantic..... | 21.0 | 32.2 | 11.3 |
| East North Central..... | 19.8 | 22.6 | 17.5 |
| West North Central..... | 12.7 | 9.1 | 15.7 |
| South Atlantic..... | 13.5 | 7.3 | 18.4 |
| East South Central..... | 9.1 | 3.7 | 13.9 |
| West South Central..... | 9.6 | 4.6 | 13.8 |
| Pacific..... | 2.9 | 2.2 | 3.4 |
| | 4.6 | 5.6 | 3.7 |

A similar comparison for Canada is seen in a previous table.

To leave the remedy for this steadily urbanizing process to the immutable laws of nature and competition may have, even 10 years ago, seemed the logical and inevitable method of correcting social aber-

rancies, unsound commercial methods, unhealthy individual tendencies to urban life, dislike of manual labor, and the gambling incident to many present-day methods of making a living. But in the light of present-day sociological science this method is no longer tenable or to be defended, since it is evident that if better ways are desirable, and hence possible, they must be found by society and those who represent it. The science of preventive medicine has its place as truly in social maladies as in purely physical ills. Primarily there must be generally disseminated a knowledge of sociological and economic principles. The germ of such already exists in most individuals, whether born in America or Europe, since it is not more than 50 years—and for many immigrants still less—since their fathers were cultivators of the soil, while the hereditary instinct is readily stimulated to turn again to the soil as to a kind mother and as a means of a wholesome livelihood for a man and his family. But it is apparent that if we in the United States and Canada have discovered no means for keeping our own people on the farm it is not probable that we shall make any method tending to this end very successful for the immigrant. This is especially seen in Canada in the case of most English immigrants, among whom the ratio is 4 urban to 1 rural if we adopt the distribution of population in England as the basis. Their lack of the most elementary knowledge of agriculture or experience of rural life has too often resulted in those having even the best intentions drifting to the nearest town after a few ineffective weeks spent in learning to farm. The fact is only beginning to be realized that farming is a science and must be learned as slowly and assiduously as any other business. For immigrants, largely agriculturists from Austria, Italy, and similar countries, the outlook is much more hopeful if steps are taken to provide them with desirable positions in rural occupations after arrival in America, and then by adequate arrangements for profitable and continuous employment to neutralize any tendency to congregate in the congested centers of large cities.

Organized governmental methods and those of private capital for initiating agricultural enterprises along industrial and business lines similar to those of well-managed commercial companies wherein cooperation in the employment of modern machinery, in the employment of effective and cheap power, in buying, storing, and marketing, with the added productiveness of intensive cultivation of small plots devoted to horticulture and orcharding must gradually be worked out, and will then result in assured financial success, social enjoyment, wholesome occupation, and the assurance, maintenance, or evolution of the best ideals of a progressive citizenship and of stability of national character.

