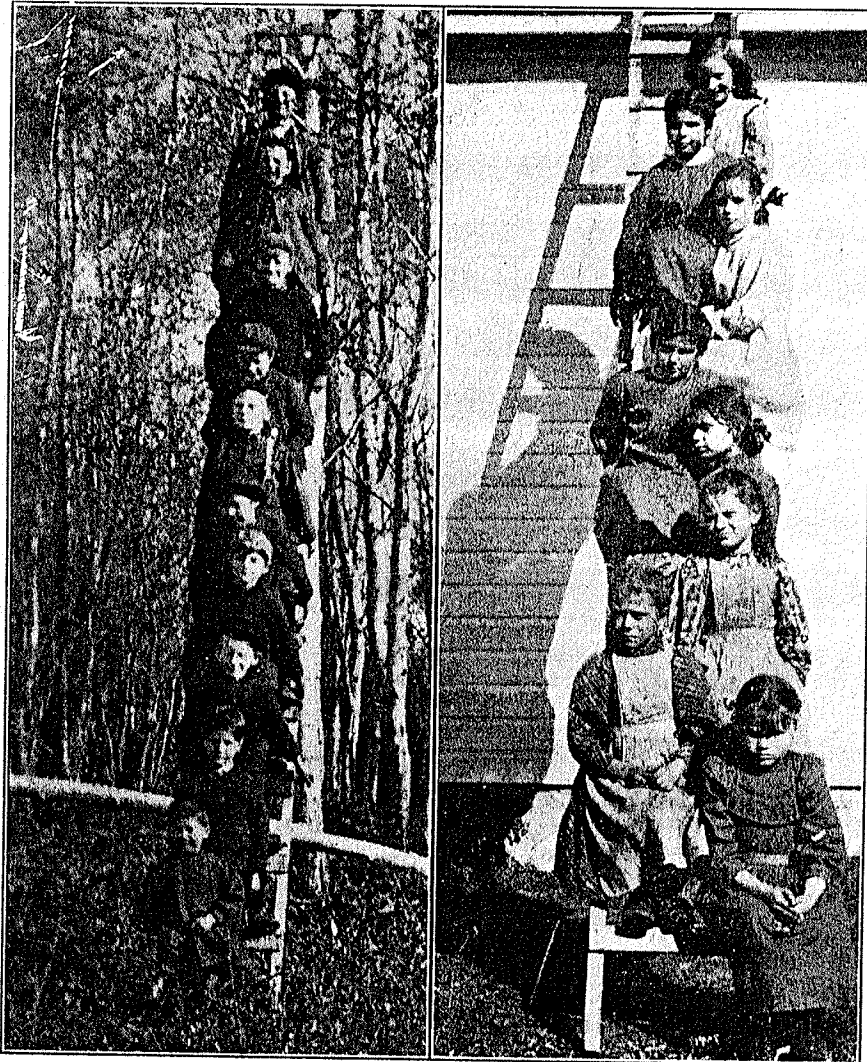


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# Canadian Immigration and its Problems



COMING CANADIANS

M. A. Thesis

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Yorkton, Sask.

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*"It is a serious matter to many a man who has invested his all in a ticket for the New World to face the possibility of rejection" (Steiner-- "On the Trail of the Immigrant").*

(1) C A N A D I A N I M M I G R A T I O N.

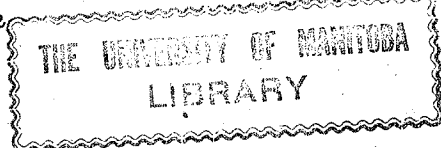
"The Dominion of Canada, extending westward from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, and northward from the United States boundary into the Arctic Circle, embraces a total area computed at 3,729,665 square miles".\* The following statement shows the total area of the Dominion inland and water and the new distribution into provinces and territories.

Provinces.	Land. Sq. Miles.	Water. Sq. Miles.	Total Land and Water. Sq. Miles.
Prince Edward Island,	2,184	---	2,184.
Nova Scotia,	21,068	360	21,428.
New Brunswick,	27,911	74	27,985.
Quebec,	690,865	15,969	706,834.
Ontario,	365,880	41,382	407,262.
Manitoba,	231,926	19,906	251,832.
Saskatchewan,	243,382	8,318	251,700.
Alberta,	252,925	2,360	255,285.
British Columbia,	353,416	2,439	355,855.
Yukon,	206,427	649	207,076.
Northwest Territories,	1,207,926	34,298	1,242,224.

Area by  
Provinces.

Population of  
Canada.

According to the corrected returns of the fifth census the total population of Canada on June 1, 1911 was 7,206,643 which represents an increase of 1,835,328 since the previous census of April 1, 1901. Thus, during this period the rate of increase was 34.17 p.c. which is the largest of any country in the world, and which is due to the heavy tide of immigration which set in with the beginning of the present century. Ontario and Quebec continue to be the most largely populated of the nine provinces, the former having 2,003,232 inhabitants. None of the other provinces has yet reached a population of half a million; but Saskatchewan has the third largest population with 492,432. All the provinces,



except Prince Edward Island, where there has been a decrease, show an increase since 1901. The Yukon and North West Territories, with relatively sparse populations show decreases as compared with 1901. The greatest relative increase is in the western provinces, especially in Saskatchewan and Alberta. The population of Saskatchewan shows an increase of 401,153 or over 439 p.c. Alberta has grown from 73,022 in 1901 to 374,663 in 1911, an increase of 301,641 or 413 p.c. Manitoba shows an increase of 200,403 from 255,211 or 78.5 pc. and British Columbia one of 213,823 or over 119 p.c., the population having grown from 178,657 in 1901 to 392,480 in 1911.

Density of  
Population.

If we calculate from the total of 3,729,665 square miles we thus find that the average density of the population of Canada is 1.93 per square mile. Prince Edward Island has a density of 42.91, Nova Scotia of 22.98, New Brunswick of 12.61, Ontario of 9.67, Manitoba of 6.18, and Quebec of 5.69. The other three provinces, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia are each below 2 per square mile.

A Land of  
Promise.

It may be seen from the above figures that this vast Dominion in which we live, is as yet more or less sparsely settled. This is especially true of the extensive tracts of land which we know as Western Canada. But when we consider the large and rapid increase of population during the past decade and when we remember that Canada is a land of the brightest promise and of practically illimitable resources, we cannot but anticipate a still greater influx of settlers during the years to come.

The Tide of  
Immigration.

The present heavy tide of immigration to Canada set in about the beginning of the twentieth century and from a total number of immigrants of 49,149 in the fiscal year 1900-1901 the number has risen to 402,432 arrivals in the year 1912-13 or an increase of over 800 p.c. If we consider each of the past three fiscal years 1910-11 to

1912-13 we shall see that they constitute a record as regards the number of immigrants to Canada. For the calendar year 1912 the total number of immigrant arrivals was 395,804 of whom 145,859 were from the United Kingdom, 140,143 from the United States and 109,802 from other countries. In the fiscal year ended March 31, 1913, the total arrivals numbered 402,232 of which 150,542 were from the United Kingdom, 139,009 from the United States and 112,681 from other countries, the proportion of British and American immigrants being 72 per cent. of the total.

Not all are  
Admitted.

Since the beginning of the twentieth century, and especially within the last five years, regulations have been in force excluding from Canada immigrants physically, mentally and morally unfit. There is therefore not only an increase in the number of arrivals, but the general standard of quality as regards the class of immigrants settling in Canada has greatly improved. The rejections of immigrants at the ocean ports for the years 1903 to 1912 inclusive numbered 8,500 and these were rejected for one or other of the following causes, - Medical Causes, including Insanity, Mental deficiency, Tuberculosis, Trachoma and Hernia; Accompanying patients; Contract Labour; Criminality; Defective eyesight; Immorality; Indirect passage; Infirmity; Lack of funds; Likelihood of becoming a public charge; Poor Physique; Stowaways and other causes. Out of the number of those who gained admission during this period 5,626 were afterwards deported.

Arrivals from  
United States.

The immigration of settlers from the United States continues to increase and to maintain a high standard of general excellence. During the years 1906 to 1912 inclusive, a total of 664,448 citizens of the United States crossed to our Dominion and with them they brought effects and cash of the estimated aggregate value of \$777,725,897 or an average of \$1,170 per capita.

Juvenile  
Immigrants.

Various philanthropic institutions of the United Kingdom have undertaken to send out numbers of juvenile immigrants each year, and since 1868 there have been about 73,000 such children placed in Canada. About 25,000 of these have come from the Dr. Barnardo Homes. There is a heavy demand for the services of these young arrivals, as is evidenced by the fact that although there were only 29,311 children thus sent to our Dominion during the years 1901 to 1913, the applications for their services numbered 233,603. During this period the following agencies were instrumental in sending out these young servants,-

British  
Emigration.

Dr. Barnardo, 1,386; Rev. R. Wallace 883; Miss Macpherson 1,937; Church of England Waifs and Strays Society 1,242; Bristol Emigration Society 236; J.W.C. Fegan 849; Catholic Emigration Society 3,227; Mrs. Birt 1,920; J.T. Middlemore 1,671; National Children's Home and Orphanage 928; Mr. Quarrier 1,396; Salvation Army 280; Self Help Society 315; Misses Smyly 211; and other agencies 930.

Chinese  
Immigration.

Owing to the heavy influx of Chinese into Canada in 1885, legislation (48-49 Vict. c.71) was passed providing that thereafter Chinese of the labouring classes be required to pay a head tax of \$50 each before being allowed to enter the Dominion; On January 1, 1901, (63-64 Vict. 1900, C.32) this tax was increased to \$100, and a further increase to \$500 was introduced on January 1, 1904 (3 Edw. VII 1903, C.8). From the year 1886 to 1912 there were 59,870 arrivals who paid the tax, and 4,547 who were exempt from tax. Not all of these remained as we learn from the census of 1911, which shows that there were 45,086 Chinese in Canada at that time.

Exempt Classes  
of Chinese.

Generally speaking, the exempt classes include consular officers, their wives, children and suites, Chinese merchants, their wives and children, and Chinese

belonging to the learned professions.

Leave of  
Absence.

The Chinese are allowed under the Act to register out of Canada for absence abroad for a period of twelve months, which registration allows them the privilege of free return within the period specified. For each of these registrations a fee of \$1 is charged.

Revenue from  
this Source.

The total revenue under the Chinese Immigration Act is made up of head taxes, registration fees for leave of absence and fines collected for infringements of the Act. From 1886 to 1902 one quarter of the net proceeds of the revenues under the Act was paid to the provinces wherein they were collected. From 1903 the proportion so paid to the provinces has been one-half, in accordance with an amending Act of 1902, (2 Edw. VII C.5). From the year 1886 to 1912 the total revenue collected was \$10,651,221 and of this amount \$4,690,052 was paid to the provinces.

Immigration from  
1908-1913.

The following table taken from the Canada Year Book, 1912, shows the arrivals at inland and ocean ports in Canada during the six fiscal years, ending March 31, 1913;

<u>Nationalities.</u>	<u>1908.</u>	<u>1909.</u>	<u>1910.</u>
English.....	90,380	37,019	40,416.
Irish.....	6,547	3,609	3,940.
Scotch.....	22,223	11,810	14,706.
Welsh.....	1,032	463	728.
Total from U.K.....	120,182	52,901	59,790.
Armenian.....	563	79	75.
Australian.....	180	171	203.
Austrian.....	1,899	1,830	4,195.
Belgian.....	1,214	828	910.
Bukowinian.....	2,145	1,546	725.
Bulgarian.....	2,529	56	557.
Chinese.....	1,884	1,887	2,156.
Danish.....	290	160	300.
Dutch.....	1,212	495	741.
Finnish.....	1,212	669	1,457.

<u>Nationalities.</u>	<u>1908.</u>	<u>1909.</u>	<u>1910.</u>
French.....	2,671	1,830	1,727.
Galician.....	14,268	6,644	3,368.
German, n.e.s.*.....	2,363	1,257	1,516.
Greek.....	1,053	192	452.
Hebrew, Austrian.....	195	24	56.
Hebrew, German.....	54	15	10.
Hebrew, Polish,.....	46	2	28.
Hebrew, Russian.....	5,738	1,444	2,745.
Hebrew, n.e.s.*.....	1,679	151	343.
Hindu.....	2,623	6	10.
Hungarian.....	1,307	595	621.
Icelandic.....	97	35	95.
Italian.....	11,212	4,228	7,118.
Japanese.....	7,601	495	271.
Newfoundland.....	3,374	2,108	3,372.
New Zealand.....	70	65	82.
Norwegian.....	1,554	752	1,370.
Polish, Austrian.....	586	42	483.
Polish, German.....	16,	3	12.
Polish, Russian.....	736	255	738.
Polish, n.e.s.*.....	255	76	174.
Rumanian.....	949	278	293.
Russian, n.e.s.*.....	6,281	3,547	4,564.
Ruthenian.....	912	149	568.
Servian.....	48	31	76.
Swedish.....	2,132	1,135	2,017.
Swiss.....	195	129	211.
Syrian.....	732	189	195.
Turkish.....	489	236	517.
U.S. (via ocean ports)..	133	94	186.
United States.....	58,312	59,832	103,798.
West Indian.....	134	113	146.

\* NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.



<u>Nationalities.</u>	<u>1908.</u>	<u>1909.</u>	<u>1910.</u>
Other nationalities.....	1,344	334	523.
Total.....	142,287	94,007	149,004.
Grand Total.....	<u>262,469</u>	<u>146,908</u>	<u>208,794.</u>

<u>Nationalities.</u>	<u>1911.</u>	<u>1912.</u>	<u>1913.</u>
English.....	84,707	95,107	108,082.
Irish.....	6,877	8,327	9,706.
Scotch.....	29,924	32,988	30,735.
Welsh.....	1,505	1,699	2,019.
Total from U.K.....	123,013	138,121	150,542.
Armenian.....	20	60	100.
Australian.....	266	184	106.
Austrian.....	7,891	4,871	1,050.
Belgian.....	1,563	1,601	1,825.
Bukowinian.....	700	328	687.
Bulgarian.....	1,068	3,295	4,616.
Chinese.....	5,278	6,247	7,445.
Danish.....	535	628	798.
Dutch.....	931	1,077	1,524.
Finnish.....	2,132	1,646	2,391.
French.....	2,041	2,094	2,755.
Galician.....	3,553	1,594	497.
German, n.e.s.*.....	2,530	4,645	4,938.
Greek.....	777	693	1,390.
Hebrew, Austrian.....	248	269	392.
Hebrew, German.....	19	4	16.
Hebrew, Polish.....	85	52	26.
Hebrew, Russian.....	4,188	4,460	6,304.
Hebrew, n.e.s.*.....	606	537	649.
Hindu.....	5	3	5.
Hungarian.....	756	482	578.
Icelandic.....	250	205	231.
Italian.....	8,359	7,590	16,601.
Japanese.....	437	765	724.

\*NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.

<u>Nationalities.</u>	<u>1911.</u>	<u>1912.</u>	<u>1913.</u>
Newfoundland.....	2,229	2,598	1,036.
New Zealand.....	116	61	39.
Norwegian.....	2,169	1,692	1,832.
Polish, Austrian.....	1,065	2,773	4,462.
Polish, German.....	43	21	29.
Polish, Russian.....	800	1,624	4,488.
Polish, n.e.s.*.....	269	642	960.
Rumanian.....	511	793	1,116.
Russian, n.e.s.*.....	6,621	9,805	18,623.
Ruthenian.....	2,869	13,346	17,420.
Servian.....	50	209	306.
Swedish.....	3,213	2,394	2,477.
Swiss.....	270	230	246.
Syrian.....	124	144	232.
Turkish.....	469	632	770.
U.S. (via ocean ports)....	203	143	121.
United States .....	121,451	133,710	139,909.
West Indian.....	398	314	398.
Other nationalities.....	963	1,655	2,611.
Total.....	188,071	216,116	251,890.
Grand Total.....	<u>311,084</u>	<u>354,237</u>	<u>402,432.</u>

Where they come from.

Thus we see that during the past six fiscal years 1,685,924 immigrants have settled in our Dominion. Of those 644,549 are English, Irish, Scotch and Welsh, from the United Kingdom; 616,992 from the United States and 424,383 from continental Europe and other foreign countries. It is significant to notice the decided yearly increase among the arrivals from continental Europe and other foreign countries, exclusive of the United States, during the past five years. From 34,081 arrivals in 1908-1909 the number has grown to 112,760 in the fiscal year 1912-1913, this representing an increase of over 230 p.c.

Let us glance for a moment at the figures representing the total immigration to Canada from July 1, 1909 to March 31, 1913. We find that during this period 2,521,144 persons arrived. Of these 973,730 were from the United Kingdom and 892,529 from the United States, this latter number including United States citizens who entered via ocean ports. The remaining 654,885 came from continental Europe and other foreign lands. A consideration of these figures leads us to observe that over twenty-five per cent. of the arrivals in Canada from other countries since 1900 were non-English speaking and represented over forty nationalities.

Why this Sudden  
Influx?

We may well ask ourselves at this juncture how our Canadian Government has aroused such a world-wide interest in this far-reaching land of fertility. The methods pursued for the encouragement of immigration vary in different countries. Canada seeks immigration from the British Isles, the United States and certain continental countries, such as France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, (including Iceland), Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Germany. At various times during the past two decades efforts have also been made in Finland, Russia and Austro-Hungary. At the present time the advertising propoganda does not include the last three countries mentioned. Canada does not seek the immigration of Southern Europeans or Asiatics of any race, and those who come to Canada from such countries are attracted by the industrial conditions here or are induced to come by employers of labour, such as railway contractors. Further Canada advertises only for farmers, farm labourers and female domestic servants, and these are the only classes who are guaranteed employment on arrival. In the British Isles advertising is done by the establishment of regular agencies; by newspaper articles; by the distribution of pamphlets; by Canadian exhibits of fruit, grain, etc. in offices and at agricultural fairs throughout the United Kingdom. These and several other

methods are those most commonly used to arouse an interest in our country in Great Britain and Ireland.

On the continent literature is distributed in the language of the country in which it is circulated; steamship booking agents are paid a bonus on agriculturists and domestics; regular agencies are established, - two at present, one in France and one in Belgium. During the fiscal year 1912-1913, there was spent in thus advertising our country in other lands \$1,399,954. Of this amount \$402,214 was spent in the British Isles, \$40,335 on the continent, \$276,684 in the United States, and \$680,721 in Canada.

When the  
Immigrant Arrives.

Every immigrant seeking to land in Canada at ocean ports is examined by medical and civil officers, and those seeking admission from the United States are examined by immigration officers stationed on the highways of travel on the International Boundary. Those rejected are summarily returned to the country from which they came. We have already referred to the causes for which they are refused admission. Upon being admitted the Dominion Immigration Agents at ocean ports, as well as Immigration Agents at other places, such as Charlottetown, P.E.I., Windsor, N.S., Fredericton, N.B., Montreal and Compton, P.Q., Toronto, Hamilton and London, Ont., and Canadian Government Employment Agents in various parts of Quebec and Ontario, arrange for situations and direct immigrants to employment free of charge. Immigrants going to Western Canada are, for the most part, placed in situations, or directed to employment, through the office of the Commissioner of Immigration at Winnipeg. Immigration buildings are provided at some ocean ports for the temporary accommodation of the new arrival. An immigration hall is also provided at Toronto and another at Winnipeg, while smaller immigration buildings are maintained at various

points in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta for the free temporary accomodation of the new settler and his family while in search of land.

#### Immigration

#### Regulations.

As we have already observed, numbers of immigrants are assisted to Canada by charitable and philanthropic societies in the United Kingdom. Others are provided with passage by friends at home or in Canada. The federal Government, however, has no system of free or assisted passages, and no immigrant is ever brought to Canada at the expense of the Government.

No free transportation on Canadian railroads is furnished to immigrants by the Government. A special rate known as the overseas rate is obtained by overseas passengers in connection with their ocean tickets. But there is no special rate obtainable through the Canadian Government for persons desiring to travel from one part of Canada to another after their arrival. A low rate is granted by the railway companies under certain conditions to persons entering from the United States to acquire land in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

The immigration regulations require that immigrants arriving between the first day of March and the thirty first day of October shall have in actual and personal possession at the time of arrival, money belonging to themselves to the amount of at least \$25. in addition to ticket to destination in Canada. If arriving between the first of November and the last day of February the amount of landing money required is \$50. Asiatics (except Chinese and Japanese) are required to have \$200 at time of arrival. Chinese pay a poll-tax of \$500 and Japanese immigration is restricted by an Agreement between the Government of Japan and that of Canada.

There are, however, certain persons who are exempt from the money regulations, the classes being as follows:  
(1) immigrants going to assured employment at farm work,



ONLY AN IMMIGRANT.

(2) female immigrants going to employment as domestic servants, (3) immigrants, whether male or female, going to a relative as follows, (a) wife going to husband, (b) child going to parent, (c) brother or sister going to brother, (d) minor going to married or independent sister, (e) parent going to son or daughter, providing always that the relative in Canada is in a position to receive and care for the immigrant. These exemptions as to money regulations do not apply to immigrants belonging to any Asiatic race.

The Canadian Immigration Act absolutely prohibits the landing in Canada of (1) idiots, imbeciles, feeble-minded persons, epileptics, insane persons, and persons who have been insane within five years previous, (2) persons afflicted with any loathsome disease or with a disease which is contagious or infectious, or which may become dangerous to the public health, (3) immigrants who are dumb, blind or otherwise physically defective, unless they belong to a family accompanying which gives satisfactory security or are going to relatives in Canada which give security or unless they have sufficient money, occupation, trade or employment to guarantee that they will not become a public charge, (4) persons coming into Canada for any immoral purpose, and prostitutes and persons living on the avails of prostitution, (5) professional beggars, vagrants, or persons likely to become a public charge.

**Vital Question!**

We have thus far been considering statistics which set forth vividly the source of the great increase in the population of Canada during the past decade; we have also made mention of the manner in which our Government has thus attracted such large numbers to our shores; we have noted the conditions upon which they are admitted and the most important regulations relating thereto. These immigrants are here and are still coming! What does this

mean to Canada and to our Canadian people? What does this mean to those who have left homes and loved ones behind to take up their abodes under new conditions? These and a dozen other important questions may be asked, the answers to which suggest the problems created by this sudden and mighty influx of people from other lands. Dr. Leopold Caro has said that "it is more than one man's life task to exhaustively study the question of immigration",\* and within the limits of a thesis such as this, it will be impossible to deal in detail with a subject of such vastness.

Immigration is and will be for the next twenty-five years the most vital question in the Dominion. The average rate of increase of the immigration from continental Europe each year for the past ten years has been 20 p.c. and at the same average rate of increase 1923 will see an immigration of 648,000 souls from continental Europe.

The "New  
Immigration".

It is significant to notice the change in the ethnic character of this immigration, which previous to 1899 was practically all from Northern Europe, but which, as we see from the table presented above, consisted for the past two years of over 80 p.c. from Southern Europe. Let us not allow prejudice to warp our judgment in respect to the composition of this so-called "New Immigration" from Southern Europe. "While there can be no question that the immigrant from Southern Europe is inferior in opportunities for development in his home land, to those from Northern Europe, it has not yet been proven that he is inferior in inherent possibilities".<sup>†</sup> It is undoubtedly true that the countries of Southern Europe are economically less favourably situated than those in Northern Europe; but we must not lose sight of the fact that these countries have produced and are producing men of high ideals and lofty inspiration. No quality that adds to the dignity of manhood is wanting in this new stream, but to the extent to which we blind our eyes to these good qualities, to the same extent will the problem of the assimilation of these

\* DR. LEOPOLD CARO

† W.W. LEE, Y.M.C.A., QUEBEC.



men be increased.

What it Means.

The vital significance of the volume of immigration to a country, however, is not its amount or composition, but its proportion to the population of the receiving nation, and this is where so many of us underestimate our own immigration problems. We are apt to infer that it is proportionately less than that of our Southern neighbors, because it is numerically less than theirs. The fallacy of this belief is apparent when we realize that when the population of the United States was double that of our country today, namely in 1840, their immigration for the previous ten years only equalled 1.2 p.c. of that population, whereas our immigration for the past ten years has equalled 6.5 p.c. of our population.

A further analysis of immigration, showing the relative numbers of the sexes, has a vital bearing on the subject. During the past ten years the proportion of the sexes in this immigration has been 78.9 p.c. males (adults) and 21.1 p.c. females (adults). We shall refer later to the specific effects of this disproportion of sexes.

The Immigrant  
at Home.

Before dealing with the various problems arising as a result of this immigration to Canada, we shall pause to look briefly into the conditions under which some of these new arrivals lived in their original homes, and to examine some of the national characteristics of each type. We shall then be in a better position to more accurately judge with what ease or with what difficulty their assimilation may be effected, since "to know anything about the actual character of recent and present immigration we must distinguish the many and diverse elements of which it is composed." In pursuing this course we shall make use of the classification found in Rev. J.S. Woodsworth's interesting volume "Strangers Within Our Gates". We shall also make use of much of the information he has given us in this widely known book. The classification is as follows:

- (1) Immigrants from Great Britain.
- (2) Immigrants from the United States.
- (3) The Scandinavians, including the Icelanders.
- (4) The Germans, including the Mennonites.
- (5) The French.
- (6) Immigrants from Southeastern Europe, including the Russians, Doukhobors and Lithuanians.
- (7) Immigrants from Austria-Hungary, including the Bohemians, Slovaks, Ruthenians, Poles and Hungarians.
- (8) Immigrants from the Balkan States.
- (9) The Hebrews.
- (10) The Italians, North and South.
- (11) The Levantine Races, including the Greeks, Turks, Armenians, Syrians and Persians.
- (12) The Orientals, including the Chinese, Japanese and Hindus.\*

Immigrants from Great Britain.

We have seen that during the last six years over half a million have left the British Isles to settle in the Dominion of Canada. These British immigrants, composed of English, Irish, Scotch and Welsh, have on the whole proved satisfactory settlers. They have seldom settled in colonies, and those who were competent farmers or skilled mechanics have readily obtained recognition and lucrative employment. Many of the arrivals from England, however, especially in unskilled labourers, have helped to form a more or less distinctive class known as "Green Englishmen" and it will be some time before they have all become useful citizens in this new country. As a rule members of this class have been used to a more or less uncertain method of living in the cities of the Motherland, and they are loathe to settle down to the apparently more strenuous life on the farm or homestead. There is perhaps, an all too prevalent idea in many

parts of the old land, that emigration to Canada is the only hope for those who makes failures of themselves at home. However, by far the greater part of our arrivals from the British Isles are quickly absorbed by Canadian Society, and heartily join with us in strengthening this unit of the World's greatest empire.

#### Immigrants from the United States.

The fact that such large numbers of people from the country to the south of us, have disposed of their farms and emigrated to Canada, is one of the best indications we can find of the great opportunities to be encountered in our vast Dominion. During the past six years over half a million people from that country have helped to swell the great tide of immigration to Canada, and coming as they have, with millions of dollars and with national characteristics so closely related to our own, they have proved a most valuable asset. There is but one class of people among these new arrivals whom we should term "undesirable". We refer to the Mormons, whose pernicious doctrines "are obviously inconsistent with the teaching of Christianity, and are directly inimical to the welfare of the State. The practice of polygamy will subvert our most cherished institutions. But more dangerous even than polygamy is the utter surrender of personal liberty, and the acknowledgment of the absolute authority of the priesthood. This means the end of all free Government, and is the confessed aim of the leaders of the Mormon Church".\* Obviously here is a problem that demands the earnest and immediate attention of our Canadian statesmen and our Canadian people.

#### The Scandinavians.

From July 1, 1900 to March 31, 1913, there have come to Canada 17,535 immigrants from Finland, 4,025 from Iceland, 24,220 from Sweden, 4,919 from Denmark and 17,322

from Norway. Thus we see that there has been an astonishingly large influx of Scandinavian people and most of these have settled in our Canadian West.

"The Finns are not, strictly speaking, a Scandinavian people, but owing to their long residence near the Swedes they have become much like them in habits and customs".\* Most of those who have come to Canada, have like the Swedes and Norwegians, taken up free homesteads, and settled down to farming. There is a large and thriving settlement a few miles north of Wapella, Saskatchewan. Among these we find well-tilled farms, substantial homes, and on every side manifest signs of progress.

The Swedes and Norwegians, in most cases, come to Canada with little money, and for a few years we find them engaged in railway construction work or other similar manual labor, for which their strong physique especially fits them. Later they drift to the land and usually live in settlements among themselves. "They easily assimilate with the Anglo-Saxon people and readily intermarry",\* so that they do not form isolated colonies as do many other European immigrants.

"The Scandinavians are very ambitious, and readily adapt themselves to Canadian ways. Although after they have passed the stage of laboring men the greater number go into farming, yet some are to be found in practically every calling".\* Many of the successful school teachers, physicians, lawyers and clergymen of Western Canada came originally from Scandinavian countries. These people are fond of society and on the whole strong advocates of temperance and morality, and the fact that they came from a northern climate where the people have been reared amid surroundings that tend to vigor of mind and body, ensures success in a land such as ours.

Throughout the four western provinces we find several thriving and progressive settlements of people from

that far-off little island known as Iceland. In Manitoba they are engaged in farming and those along the shores of Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipeg spend the fall and winter months in fishing. The men are strong and capable of great physical endurance. The Icelanders are fast becoming worthy of a place among the best of Canada's citizens, and we find their young men and women leading their classes in our Western colleges and Universities. Several of the Rhodes scholars from Manitoba have been Icelanders. We welcome our Icelandic friends with open arms! "They have taken their place in the development of the country, and have become a powerful influence in the social and political life of the three prairie provinces. Sober, industrious and thrifty, they are in every way excellent citizens".\*

#### The Germans.

"Few of our German immigrants come from Germany. The great majority are from Austria and Russia. As to numbers it is exceedingly difficult to obtain reliable figures".\* According to the official statistics the numbers of "Germans" coming to Canada from July 1, 1900 to March 31, 1913 was 30,762, but how many of these came from Austria and how many from Russia it is difficult to say. The official table also classes the Mennonites as a distinct race, whereas they are virtually all Germans. Further, among those coming to Canada from the United States, are many Germans.

The "Germans from Russia" went to that country about a century ago, owing to special inducements being offered by the Russian Government. Latterly these privileges were taken away and discontent followed, with the result that they decided to leave the country. Many who left have come to Canada and we have found in them characteristics which should make for good citizenship when the process of

\* Woodsworth.

assimilating our vast "foreign" population is perfected.

The Germans who have come to us from Austria have done so with a view to bettering their condition. Most of them have taken up farming and they have proven themselves industrious and hard-working. They have established beautiful churches in the rural communities, and all tenaciously cling to their language and customs. In many Western settlements we find a lack of interest in the public schools and too often schools are privately maintained for the main purpose of teaching their own language to the exclusion of English. We require a fair but strict compulsory law in our western provinces, in order that every child may obtain a knowledge of the English language. At the present time the progress being made in the public schools in many German settlements is far from satisfactory.

#### The French.

During the last twelve years over 20,000 people from France have taken up their abode in Canada. They have formed no very large colonies but have their little settlements scattered throughout the west. As a rule they farm successfully and rapidly become reconciled to our western agricultural methods. Several Separate Schools in charge of French priests have been established but large numbers attend the Public Schools. The writer has found that there is an earnest desire to have the children taught to speak English. "Me teach French. Let English teacher teach English", a jovial priest remarked to us when passing through a French settlement in Saskatchewan, and many similar instances might be cited to emphasize this point.

Immigrants from Southeastern Europe.

It is rather difficult to decide upon what basis we should classify the immigrants from South Eastern Europe, but we shall attempt to do so by considering the matter from the standpoint of language. "Although language is no test of race, it is the best evidence for present or past community of social or political life; and nothing is better fitted to give a true impression of the position and relative importance of the peoples from Europe than a survey of their linguistic differences and affinities".\*

Let us first consider the immigrants from Russia. We find that the majority of them are Germans, Jews, Lithuanians and Poles. "Those who stoutly maintain that they are 'Russ' are 'Little Russians'".\*

"We may classify Russians generally as 'Great Russians' who come from the north; 'White Russians', who dwell in the west and 'Little Russians' who come from the south. In Russia the 'Little Russians' are often called 'Red Russians' and they are 'closely allied to the Rusniaks or Ruthenians of Galacia and Bukowina.' Most of our arrivals from Russia are "Little" Russians and they may be classed with the Galicians as their languages are cognate, and the social conditions much the same".\*

A certain class of immigrants from Russia, known as the Doukhobors, have, throughout Western Canada, aroused considerable curiosity and has been a source of annoyance at times to our citizens and statesmen. Many of them settled in Eastern Saskatchewan in the vicinity of Yorkton, but large numbers of these have left and gone to British Columbia.

"The Doukhobors have been eulogized in the highest terms by enthusiastic idealists and sympathizers; they have been condemned in language equally fervid as ignorant, unprogressive and immoral. As a matter of fact, no

one exactly understands this peculiar people. They are actually seven hundred years behind the times. Their customs, their mode of thought, their whole spirit is that of the thirteenth century rather than the twentieth. In their pilgrimages, so inexplicable to a man of this day, they are moved by the same stirrings of the heart and prompted by the same feelings which set thousands on their heroically useless marches to the Holy Land." \*

This religious sect originated in a village on the southern frontier of Russia in the eighteenth century and the Russian Government and the Orthodox Church soon began to be attracted; the former from the fact that the Doukhobors refused to render military service; the latter because of the religious doctrine taught. They were persecuted, banished and otherwise punished until they could endure it no longer and decided to leave the country. This they did and in 1898 over 1800 embarked for Canada. Later others came until the number of Doukhobors in Canada at present is nearly 10,000. Their leader here is one Peter Veregin, who is a man of considerable executive ability and who exercises a mighty influence over these people. With the exception of a few who have broken away from the autocratic rule of Veregin, they live in communities in regularly arranged villages. The leader transacts all their business and invests all money earned. Unfortunately, where the principle of communism prevails, they have no schools, and the children are growing up ignorant of our language. Such a disgraceful condition of affairs is encouraged by Veregin, evidently from a selfish motive. Why in a civilized country such as ours, should we allow such Siberian methods to prevail? They need education more than anything else. When they obtain this blessing, we may expect to see these people become good, intelligent citizens. Let us not delay this all-important matter!



We shall next consider another class of immigrants from Russia,- the Lithuanians. "The Lithuanians are neither Teutons nor Slavs, but belong to a separate branch of the Aryan race. Their language is very old and primitive, and closely resembles Sanskrit. Probably they were the first of the Aryan races to settle in Europe, when, in the tenth century, they became divided into three branches- the Borussians, the Letts, and the Samoghitians. The Borussians, who occupied what is now East Prussia, soon fell under German influence and lost their political existence, leaving only their name corrupted into Prussia. The Letts occupied the country now known as the Baltic Provinces of Russia. The Samoghitians, or Lithuanians proper, occupied territory south of the Baltic provinces. In the fourteenth century the King of Lithuania ruled the territory occupied today by Poles, Lithuanians and White Russians. In 1569 came a union with Poland. From that time the history of Lithuania has been the history of Poland. The inaccessibility of the country has helped to preserve the racial characteristics of this people. A typical Lithuanian is tall and well-proportioned. He has the features of a Greek and the complexion of a Norseman."\*

A number of these people have crossed over to Canada in recent years, from the United States where large numbers have settled. Although, in their own country they were engaged largely in farm work, they have not very extensively taken up agricultural work in America. "In religion they are devout Roman Catholics. They are industrious and good-natured, but, like their Slavic neighbors, are addicted to drunken sprees."\*

#### Immigrants from Austria-Hungary.

The country we know of as Austria-Hungary is not by any means a separate nation but is composed of various kingdoms, archduchies, duchies and principalities. In

these we find different races and different languages. In the "Chautauquan", Vol. 38, p. 433, John R. Commons thus described the conditions in Austria-Hungary:

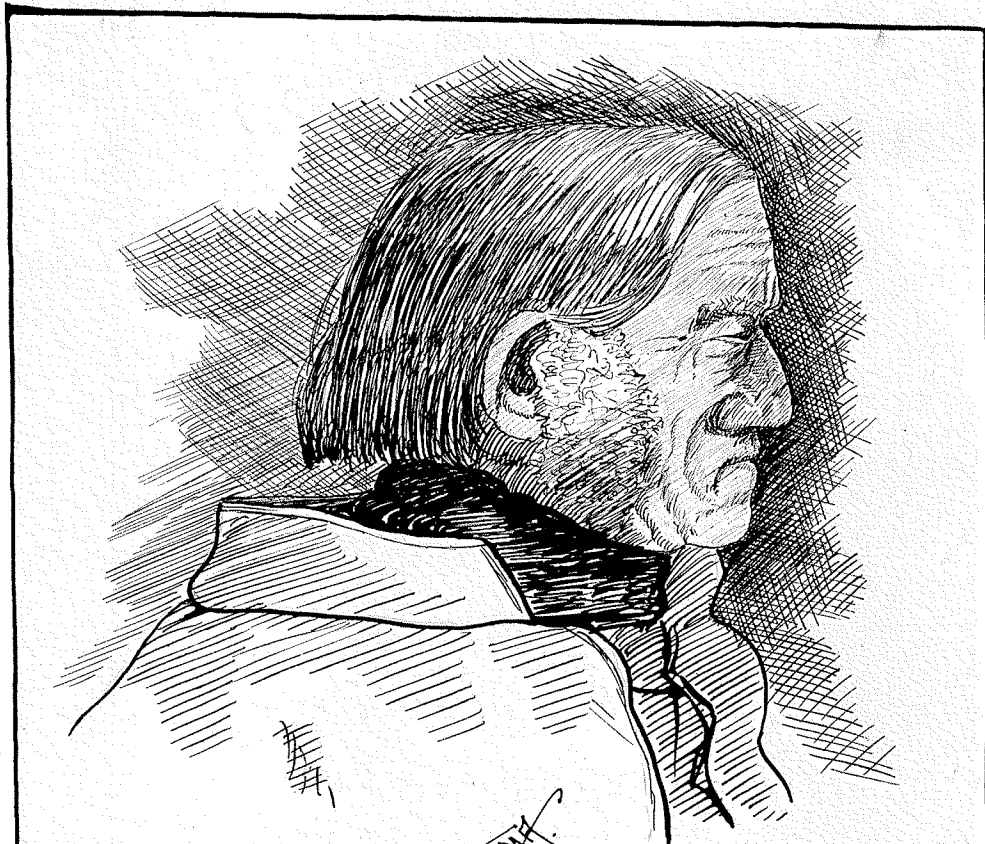
"Not only are there in Austro-Hungary five grand divisions of the human family - the Germans, the Slav, the Magyar, the Latin and the Jew - but these are again divided. In the northern mountainous and hilly sections are 13,000,000 Slavic peoples - the Czecks, or Bohemians, with their closely related Moravians, and the Slavic Slovaks, Poles and Ruthenians, or Rusniaks; while in the southern hills and along the Adriatic are another 4,000,000 Slavs - the Croatians Servians, Dalmatians and Slovenians.

"Between these divisions, on the fertile plains, 6,000,000 Magyars and 10,000,000 Germans have thrust themselves as the dominant races. To the southwest are nearly a million Italians, and in the far East 2,500,000 Roumanians speaking a Latin language. The Slavs and Latins are in general the conquered peoples, with a German and Magyar nobility owning their land, making their laws, and managing their administration. Totally unrepresented in Government are the Jews, numbering two per cent. to four per cent. of the population in Bohemia and Hungary, and fully ten per cent. in the Polish and Rusniak areas." \*

During the past twelve years, over 160,000 immigrants have arrived in Canada from Austria-Hungary. This number includes Bohemians, Slovaks, Ruthenians, Poles, Hungarians, and others. We shall briefly consider each of the five races mentioned with a view to ascertaining what each is likely to contribute to the future new Canadian citizenship which is inevitable.

The  
Bohemians.

In "Charities", 1904, Mr. N. Machek describes the history of the Bohemians as follows:- "For two hundred and fifty years they have been oppressed by a pitilessly despotic rule. In the day of their independence, before 1620, they were Protestants, and the most glorious and memorable



A SLOVAK TYPE.



events of their history are connected with their struggle for the faith. The history of their church is the history of their nation, for on the one hand was Protestantism and independence, on the other Catholicism and political subjection. For two centuries Bohemia was a bloody battleground of Protestant reform. Under the spiritual and military leadership of such men as Jerome of Prague, John Huss, and Liska, the Bohemians fought their good fight and lost. After the Battle of White Mountains, in 1620, national independence was completely lost, and Catholicism was forcibly imposed upon the country. All Protestant Bibles, books and songs were burned, thus depriving the nation of a large and rich literature. Men who still clung to their faith publicly were banished, their property becoming forfeited to the State. After one hundred and fifty years, when Emperor Joseph II of Austria, gave back to the Protestants some measure of their former freedom, many of the churches were re-established; but Protestantism had lost much of its strength. The political revolution of 1848 led to new subjugation, and emigration was the result. Large numbers left the country in quest of freedom, and some of these found their way to America."\*

The Bohemians who have come to Canada readily adapt themselves to Canadian conditions; and in themselves constitute no great problem.

#### The Slovaks.

The Slovaks are from Northern Hungary and are more or less akin to the Bohemians. Many of them are of a low, illiterate type, and the majority are fitted only for rough labor. Let us do our duty towards educating the children of these rough-shod sons of toil who have themselves never known the value of proper school training!

#### The Galicians or Ruthenians.

"The Ruthenians are a Slavic people, who live in the Austrian Provinces of Galicia and Bukowina. They are closely allied to the Little Russians of Southern Russia."\*  
Over sixty-five thousand Ruthenians or Galicians have

\*"CHARITIES"---1904.  
© WOODSWORTH.

settled in Canada between 1908 and the fiscal year ending March 31, 1913. Most of these have come from Galicia. In addition to these over 6,000 have arrived from Bukowina. These Bukowinians are even more ignorant and illiterate than the Galicians. These people require our immediate sympathy and attention, and, as we shall show later on, they play a serious part in the problems arising from our Canadian immigration.

In Canada many of these Galicians are employed by contractors where there is a demand for unskilled labor, but in many sections of the western provinces they have taken up homesteads, and are making a fair success of farming. They are strong and hardy and capable of great physical endurance.

We herewith reproduce an essay written by the first Ruthenian student to enrol in a Normal School of Saskatchewan:

"According to statistics, there are at present 25,000,000 of Ruthenians in so-called Russian Ukraina, 5,000,000 in Galicia, and 3,000,000 in America, namely in Canada, United States, Brazil and Argentine. This makes a grand total number of 33,000,000 of Ruthenians now living in the world.

"The History of Ruthenians can be traced as far back as 700 A.D. In the year 1000, and for about half of the eleventh century Ukraina, while ruled by her king, Yaroslav Mudry, was perhaps at that time the strongest and most progressive kingdom among her neighbors.

"One reading Ruthenian History finds a most interesting book regarding the "Invasion" of Eastern tribes such as Tartars and Turks, with whom these people had to fight constantly to keep them away from their country, and thus they became so chivalrous that they were even not afraid to pay a visit to Constantinople, and to see the Sultan personally, where they used to plunder all, and release the Ruthenians previously taken by the Greeks, when

invading Ukraina.

"Thus life went on. King after king ruled, and as was done in Mediaeval times, divided their kingdom among their sons which lead the country to fall. In the seventeenth century, there was hardly any knight who had a valid right to be a king. Then came the great leader and General Bohdan Chmilnicky, and under him Ukraina became a Republic. He ruled wisely and at first was successful in wars; but after 15 years, he was defeated by Turks and Poland and was forced to become an ally of Russia. He signed a Treaty with Russian Emperor Alexander Myschaylowitch in 1654, in which it was agreed that Ukraina was to become an independent kingdom, ruling with her president-general, under the protection of Russia. But this was abused which gave many causes for struggles and revolts. Now Ukraina tried to free herself from the Russian yokes. Several revolts took place and many battles were fought. The last battle was fought in Poltawa in 1709, under General Mazepa. Unfortunately the Ruthenians were defeated and henceforth they were watched very closely. The nobility lost their rights, the lands were confiscated, unless they were willing to become Russians. The same was practiced in what is now called Galicia under the Polish rule, (as this portion of Ukraina was taken previously by Poland). Ukraina now was corrupted and was fast falling to ruin. The nobilities were assimilated, and there was only one class of people and they were speaking and using their language among themselves only.

"In the year 1848, Austria abolished slavery, and thus the rights were restored to Ruthenians in Galicia (as now they are under Austria), which gave them an opportunity for higher civilization. Schools were established, and Ruthenians being eager to grasp every chance they had, since then made a wonderful progress. They elected as many as 35 members to the Imperial

Parliament in Vienna<sup>n</sup> in the last election, and 30 members to the Provincial Parliament in Lemberg in Galicia.

"One main cause which makes them leave their father's land, and emigrate to America, is the over-crowded population and not enough of industrial work in Galicia. They started to emigrate to Canada twenty years ago. Most of the Ruthenians have settled in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Here they have taken free hom<sup>e</sup>steads, worked their soil and proved to be most tolerable people, where from practically nothing, they can become quite rich in a few years. They have taken several steps towards their improvement and it is hoped that they in the near future will become as good as others, but this will only occur if they reach the same line of civilization." \*

#### The Poles.

All of us are more or less acquainted with the contributions which Poland has made to the Science, literature, music, and art of the world. The names of Paderewski, and Modjeska are quite familiar to us. "A race which has produced such genius, which is so artistic in its temperament, which has struggled so stubbornly for freedom and which has preserved, despite its division amongst three empires, its national patriotism, cannot surely be judged by the fighting, brawlers who figure too often in our police records". Most of the Poles who have come to Canada are poor people, -peasants. They have in most cases little or no education although we have some cultured and refined men among them. The writer's experience among Poles in Saskatchewan warrants him in asserting that the majority, although themselves quite illiterate, are anxious to have their children educated in our Public Schools. During the present year (1913) there was at the Yorkton Saskatchewan Third Class Normal School, a young Pole, who five years ago, knew no English. He now has a Third Class professional certificate and purposes completing his University course. When asked to write an essay during the

~~during the~~ Normal session, he handed in the following, which is a most creditable attempt to portray life as he saw it in the little village of misery where his own father toiled and almost starved, before coming to this land of freedom:

"On the banks of a chattering brook in the province of Silesia, in Austria, is situated a little town called Trzynietz, having a green mountain about two thousand and fifty feet in height for a back ground, and where the day and night seem to have no rest on account of its busy people.

"One viewing that little town from a distance on a bright summer morning can behold a wonderful sight. The lofty green mountain, which overlords the others, seems to reflect the crimson beams of the dawning day upon the little edifices, blending the eaves into silvery, sparkling gems. As the daylight brightens all nature seems to revive from its peaceful stillness for the new day, but the industrious people seem to have no peace, at the near-by factories, which send up columns of curling smoke into the air, leaving long layers and chains of different shapes in the placid sky and suggesting to the observer a great manufacturing centre. A terrible crash or a murmuring groan can be heard occasionally from the powerful machines emphasizing the toilsome work that is performed by them. Here and there a little figure may be seen representing a man moving from one place to another.

"These living persons are seen here during the whole day and night. Their clothes are scanty, ragged and soiled, giving to the on-looker an impressive picture of weary life. As the day seems to brighten some more people are starting from their homes for the factory to earn a few cents in order to buy their daily food. They assemble, as they walk on until a multitude has gathered, by the time they reach the high chimney-like constructions.



"By and by the whistling signal begins to announce the time to begin the duties of another day. Every one puts aside his little basket or parcel and eagerly starts toiling on. One may be seen filling up a car with coal, another sifting sand for the preparation of mortar for the different bricks; in another corner of a shop a mighty blacksmith with sinewy muscles is turning a piece of hot iron below a huge hammer which is moved up and down by steam. Above, amid the numerous wires is groaning and murmuring an electric motor as it raises up a large vessel of smelting iron.

"On the left in an adjoining structure are large rollers operated by forceful power, turning with great speed and moulding the rectangular, red-hot cubes of iron, that are fed by the near-by man, into long snake-like forms, resembling the steel which is seen on the railroads. These long pieces are carried by small rollers to a large circular saw, which cuts them into pieces of required length, with sparks flying in all directions. Here these men are toiling day after day in these enormous structures, until their day of everlasting rest arrives.

"About eight o'clock in the morning the tiny feet of the little children are seen to be moving over the dusty roads towards two magnificent buildings, where morals and the method of how-to-live is taught.

"Yonder in the distance a woman rather short of stature, dressed in old-fashioned clothes, having embroidery work upon the upper part of her forehead to decorate the chestnut hair, is standing. She has in front of her some refreshments, consisting of fruits and soft drinks. The peasant and the coachman are winding their way with their teams towards the little town. The merry thrush is heard piping in the near-by bluff and bidding a welcome to the fair day. When the morning house work is over, the house maids begin their work in the gardens which are surrounded by various fruit trees

and shrubs.

"Later on, the maids and husbands retire from their work; the day vanishes and the evening appears. The crimson sun seems to kiss the earth, bidding a heart-felt "Good-bye" and the rolling hills and the little homes are checkered with the shadow of the trees announcing that another day is ended."\*

Here is but one of many instances of what Saskatchewan's public schools are doing for her immigrant children!

#### The Hungarians.

There are considerably more than 10,000 Hungarians in Canada, and the majority have taken up land in the western provinces. They are a progressive people and many have become comparatively wealthy through success in farming. The children attend school quite regularly and when they mature they will be most creditable citizens. During the past year (1913), Joseph Ballay, a Hungarian newspaper man and financier, made a tour of western Canada, with a view to investigating conditions among his fellow-countrymen, who have settled here. The following extract describes in Mr. Ballay's own words conditions as he met them in Saskatchewan:

"Hungarian settlers in Saskatchewan are prosperous to a degree unknown in any other part of the world. There are 15,000 of them in Canada, the great majority resident in your province. In the United States our people work on construction undertakings and send their savings out of the country. In Canada they take up land, invest their savings in implements and stock, and take steps as soon as they are financially able to bring their relatives from across the water. Ninety per cent. of the Hungarians in the Dominion are engaged in agriculture."

"Since my arrival in Saskatchewan", he declared, "I have met quite a number of my countrymen who emigrated fifteen or twenty years ago without a dollar, who are today possessed

\* L. Niemcewicz



BOSNIAN VILLAGE.

*"Except for the little mosque in the foreground, the scene is typical also of Croatia." (Steiner).*

of fortunes as great as \$100,000. I am told by every farmer I meet that there is no other country in the world where the earth yields so plentifully for so little effort as in Saskatchewan. The British settlers of Esterhazy inform me that their Hungarian neighbors are all first-class farmers, thrifty and industrious. They are very grateful to Canada for the opportunities which she has provided."

"Four or five years ago the Hungarian Government awakened to the fact that all of our people who come to the Dominion stay here and keep their money here. Then it was that the authorities determined to check emigration. They did all that could be done, but have now come to realize that the movement cannot be stopped, and they have abandoned the attempt. The temporary measures which have been adopted during the past few months have nothing at all to do with the Government's permanent policy."

In their home life the Hungarians are clean and sanitary conditions are most favorable. The women are good cooks and no better housekeepers are to be found anywhere in Canada than those found in the many homes recently visited by the writer. We gladly extend the hand of welcome to these people!

#### Immigrants from the Balkan States.

Up to the present time the volume of immigration from these States has not been large, but it is quite probable that during the next decade we shall have many of the people from this point of Europe in our midst. Under the name Balkan States we include Montenegro, Serbia and Roumania, which are independent kingdoms; Bulgaria and East Roumelia, which are subject to Turkey; Turkey in Europe and Greece.

Montenegro.

Montenegro is a very small hereditary monarchy. The people are "simple-living, freedom-loving mountaineers", and in religion they are mostly adherents of the Greek Church.

Servia.

The kingdom of Servia is a constitutional one, and "the

people generally are illiterate and superstitious". Little interest is taken in education, and the people live a simple life, with agriculture as their chief industry. Only a little over 700 Servians have come to Canada during the past six years.

#### Roumania.

The largest of the three independent Balkan kingdoms is Roumania and its population is between five and six millions. "It is probably the most enlightened, the most progressive and the most democratic of the three states. The Government is a limited monarchy. The executive consists of a council of eight ministers. The legislative power is vested in a Chamber of Deputies, composed of 180 members, elected for four years, and in a Senate of 120 members elected for eight years, one-half retiring after four years."\*

#### Bulgaria.

There are two provinces in Bulgaria,- one north of the Balkans, known as Bulgaria, and one south of the Balkans, called East Roumelia. These have been united since 1885, and since 1878 Bulgaria has been under the sovereignty of Turkey, although it has been under the immediate direction of a Christian governor. In this country we find Turks, Roumanians, Servians, Russians, Jews, and Armenians, and the language is more or less composed of elements from each of these races.

The number of immigrants from these Balkan States has so far not been very large and of the few thousands who have come, the majority have settled in the cities of Eastern Canada. "Only a small proportion of them are skilled workmen; they are nearly all laborers, and with practically no money when they arrive.... They are a simple sluggish people, who have been oppressed and down-trodden for ages; therefore it can hardly be expected that they can land in this country, and at once fall in with our peculiar ways, and understand or appreciate our institutions."\* In endeavoring to solve our great immigration problem we must not forget these people from the Balkan States!

The Hebrews.

"All who know the stuff of which they are made have no fear but that from the grinding process there will rise men and women of the highest types of citizenship, business and professional men of high grade, poets, scholars, scientific workers in many fields."\* So writes Bernheimer, in describing these people. He points out that their "restless energy, shrewd insight, breadth of view, intense intellectual initiative, moral strength, and spiritual power",\* ensures success. He emphasizes the struggle necessary to adjust themselves to conditions in America. Our latest statistics show that during the last twelve years over 60,000 Hebrews have come to Canada. The majority of these have settled in the eastern and western cities but we find several farm colonies in Western Canada.

In order to understand how best to assist these people we should become acquainted with the conditions under which they lived in their own countries. The expulsion of the Jews from England in 1290, from France in 1395, and from Spain and Portugal in 1492 and 1495 is a matter of ancient history. Germany and Russia persecuted them and thence they fled to Poland. Later, when, 1891, Russia gained possession of a portion of Poland, they were severely persecuted, and to such an extent that they were forced to look for homes in other lands. Hall tells us that, "in Russian today the Jew is not permitted to foreclose a mortgage, or to lease or purchase land. He cannot worship nor assemble without police permit; he must serve in the army but cannot become an officer; he is excluded from schools and universities; he is fined for conducting manufacturing and commerce; he is almost prohibited from the learned professions."† Is it any wonder that such conditions are gladly left beyond the Atlantic?

"Persecution, devotion to his religion and careful training of his children, makes the Jew a peculiar people",†

\* BERNHEIMER

† HALL.

and we must not be too hasty in adversely criticizing him. They are industrious and possess to a marked degree the ability to gain wealth and become more or less prosperous. "Naturally religious, temperate, home-loving, intelligent, industrious and ambitious, the Jew is bound to succeed." \*

#### The Italians.

Nearly 80,000 of these people have come to Canada during the past decade. Over 16,000 came during the fiscal year ending March 31, 1913.

To get an idea of what manner of people the Italians are, we cannot do better than quote Dr. Allan McLaughlin when he says: "In considering Italian immigrants, it is necessary to recognize the differences existing between Northern and Southern Italians. The Northern Italian is taller, often of lighter complexion, and is usually in a more prosperous condition than his brother from the south. The North Italian is intelligent, can nearly always read and write, and very often is skilled in some trade or occupation. He compares favorably with the Scandinavian, or German, and his desirability as an immigrant is seldom questioned. He usually leaves Italy through the representations of friends in this country, and therefore comes here with a definite purpose, and is not at the mercy of a 'padrone'. On the other hand, the Southern Italian, short of stature, very dark of complexion, usually lands here almost destitute. His intelligence is not higher than one could imagine in the descendant of peasantry, illiterate for centuries. He can seldom read and write, and invariably is an unskilled farm laborer. He has little money, often has no definite purpose, and naturally must depend on someone who speaks his language. In this way he falls into the hands of the 'padrone'." †

The Italians who have come to Canada are composed of representatives from both Northern and Southern Italy.

\* HALL.

† DR. ALLAN MCLAUGHLIN.

As a rule they help to swell the numbers of daily laborers, very few of them engaging in farm work. In practically all our Canadian cities we find areas inhabited by Italians, and too often the conditions under which they live are most unhealthy and unsanitary. A very large percentage of them are illiterate but the children are being sent to the city schools, and many are taking advantage of our cheap system of higher education in Canada.

#### The Levantine Races.

Among the people who have emigrated to Canada from the shores of the Mediterranean, we find Greeks, Turks, Armenians and Syrians. During the past decade nearly 2,000 Armenians, over 6,000 Greeks, over 5,000 Syrians, and nearly 4,000 Turks, have arrived. We may here refer also to about 200 Persians, who have come to our country to escape religious persecution in their own land. In many respects these people from the Levant are not very desirable, and there is little likelihood of them becoming useful citizens.

#### The Greeks.

The Greeks usually settle in the larger cities and towns and engage in the fruit or confectionery business. In some cities we find large numbers of mere boys, with no knowledge of our language and engaged in boot-blackening. It is altogether likely that they are under the control of "padrone", who have brought them to Canada to further their own interests. In many cases they appear to be lads of unusual brightness and our social workers should be able to materially assist them.

#### The Turks.

The Turks also settle for the most part in cities and the majority of them are pedlars or keep shops in which they sell Turkish rugs and other Eastern wares.

#### The Armenians.

The 2,000 Armenians have come to our land of liberty "to escape the oppressions" of a severe Government. They have never been trained to endure hard labor and



consequently we find the majority making their living as pedlars or small shop-keepers in the larger centres.

The Syrians.

The majority of the Syrians whom we have with us, have come from a little independent territory known as Mount Lebanon. Many of them have become quite rich in our country, and they are beginning to take an active interest in Canadian society and politics.

Whelpley, in speaking of the Syrians and Armenians says: "In the country of their adoption they usually become itinerant merchants or factory hands. They are generally of a most undesirable class; and while not vicious, their intellectual level is low. There are exceptions to this rule, but not in sufficient numbers to remove from this immigration movement the bad reputation it has attained among those brought into contact with it. The most dangerous feature is the general prevalence of contagious and loathsome diseases, some of which are difficult of detection, any one of which constitutes a serious threat to foreign communities into which these aliens are absorbed."\* We are inclined to think this criticism is by far too severe. If proper precautions are taken by our immigration officials, such diseased persons will not be admitted. We have these people with us. They are likely to stay, and we cannot remedy matters by denouncing them. They need our help! Let us readily grant it!

The Persians.

The Persians in Canada, as we have pointed out, are but few in number. In Saskatchewan we have a farm colony near North Battleford, and here they are progressing most favorably, and contrary to our expectations, are slowly but surely adapting themselves to their new environment.

#### Immigrants from the Orient.

As we have remarked, there were 45,086 Chinese in Canada when the census was taken in 1911. Over 7,000 arrived during the fiscal year ending March 31, 1913. During the

\* WHELPLEY.

past twelve years nearly 15,000 Japanese, and over 5,000 Hindus have helped to swell the great tide of Oriental immigration.

Most of these arrivals from the East have settled in British Columbia, and to such an extent has this influx increased in recent years, that one in every nine of the population during the past year was an Oriental. When we remember that the large proportion of the arrivals are men, it means that one man out of every five in British Columbia is an Oriental. Surely such a state of affairs should call us to attention!

#### The Chinese.

The Chinamen who have settled in Eastern Canada are generally engaged in the restaurant or laundry business. In British Columbia, we find them engaged in all kinds of work, but more particularly in the lumbering and fishing industries.

#### The Japanese.

The Japanese immigrants have settled in large numbers in British Columbia, and they are mostly engaged in the fishing business. They are very enterprising and eager to advance, so that we soon find these energetic little Orientals in more or less prosperous circumstances.

#### The Hindus.

The Hindu problem is perhaps one of the most difficult in view of the fact that the Hindu is a British subject. Many of them have fought for the Empire and have fought bravely. Nevertheless we feel that to allow them to rush into Canada in large numbers would be most dangerous.

The arrivals in Canada have for the most part been employed only in the lowest kinds of manual labor. "They are very slow, and do not seem capable of hard, continuous exertion. Their diet is light and physically, they are not adapted to the rigorous climate of Canada.

"Owing to his peculiarities, the Hindu cannot work with men of other nations; indeed only with Hindus of his own caste. He must prepare his own food, and that of a particular kind. Opinions differ as to the cleanliness of these Sikhs. They have certain religious ablutions,

about which they are very punctilious, but since coming to this country they have lived herded together in the most wretched fashion. They may have been their misfortune, rather than their fault. But their standards of living and manner of life and thought are far different from ours. However estimable they may be in India, they are sadly out of place in Canada".\*

#### THE PROBLEMS OF IMMIGRATION.

"Canada has many problems but they all dwindle into insignificance before the one great, commanding, overwhelming problem of immigration. Of vital importance to us are the character, the welfare and the development of the peoples who are to be the people of Canada."\* Here we must subdivide and separately consider the various problems arising from this general one just cited. The question is primarily an economic one. Then we have the all-important question of assimilation and under this rather general heading we shall look into the social, religious, political and educational questions which naturally must be encountered before we can have a solution to the problem of creating a Canadian ideal sufficiently broad to incorporate the best which the immigrants bring with them and sufficiently high to save us from selfish commercialism which threatens to dominate our thought. Thus do we define assimilation. What a task is before us, and how apparently disinterested so many of us are!

We have said that the question is primarily an economic one, and therefore logically we must first consider economic effects. The development and expansion of a country's industries play no small part in the assuring of its commercial welfare, and there can be no question but that many of our industries owe their development to immigrant labor, and are depending on that labor for their future expansion. It has been estimated that the average cost of raising a man to the point of productive

\*WOODSWORTH.

efficiency is one thousand dollars, and as this country has borne no part of the burden of bring this army of producers up to that point, their presence here is so much of a clear asset. This should be borne in mind when we hear the oft-repeated phrase that the foreign immigrants send so much money out of the country.

While this has meant in some instances the displacement of English-speaking labor, and the driving of it into other occupations, we have not yet reached the stage in our economical development where this displacement has worked permanent harm to the displaced labor. Some exponents of economics would have us believe that permanent harm and lowering of wages has resulted therefrom, but so far as we can learn this is a prejudice rather than a reality. We, however, <sup>have</sup> had sufficient experience to warrant us in concluding that if our promiscuous immigration policy of the past few years is too long pursued, such undesirable conditions among our laboring classes is bound to ensue. The newly arrived immigrant with a low standard of living and no family to support, sets the pace for wages. As unskilled labor lasts for only about eight months in the year, it is a difficult matter for the ordinary wage-earner who desires to obtain a decent standard of living and who has a family to support, to compete with the newly arrived immigrant.

It is probably safe to assert that the standard of living of industrial workers, is one of the surest indices of a country's civilization, and we do well to examine very carefully the effects of this immigration upon the standards of living of our country. It is a statement beyond argument that the standards of living in the countries from which this immigration is largely drawn, are far below our standards. Of course we refer here to those coming from Continental Europe. Added to this is the fact that among those who come there are

three times as many males as females, with the accompanying inference that a large proportion of them have families to support in the home land. In consequence they are under the economic necessity of reducing their personal living expenses to the lowest possible minimum. Yet another incentive to this reduction of expenses is found in the employment of so many immigrants in seasonable occupations, with the attendant necessity of making provision for the periods of unemployment. Let us examine some of the means adopted by these immigrants in order to curtail expenses. There are two types of boarding houses found among them. One is known as the stag boarding house, where from ten to twenty men will rent a room or shack, depute one of their number to do the cooking and share the cost of food among them. The other known as the family boarding house is generally conducted by a man who has been here several years and who has his wife with him. In this boarding house the boarders generally pay a fixed sum for lodging, washing and cooking, which is done by the wife of the boarding house boss. The former system is common in Oshawa, Hamilton, Regina, Edmonton, Montreal and Lethbridge, while the latter is found more particularly in Toronto and Winnipeg. Of course examples of each may be found in all the cities named.

The success of these systems for reducing the cost of subsistence, can be judged by the fact that the average living expenses of these men, in twenty cities of Canada, where conditions were looked into, was found to be \$15. to \$18. per month. When we consider that the plane of competition always tends to sink to the level of its lowest factor, we may well ask what effect this standard of life may have upon the standards of industrial workers generally.

The elimination of the home and family life, and substitution of this boarding house system, also has a potent and far-reaching effect upon housing conditions.

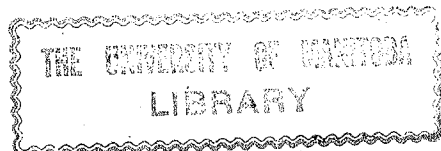
Here let us illustrate: "In a large city in the East one boarding house was found containing, by the boarding house boss's count, 156 men. They were ~~there~~ in two 'shifts', and as the house contained but ten rooms the overcrowding can be imagined. The filth was indescribable, and only men of magnificent physique and stamina, could possibly exist in such circumstances." \* Another illustration is taken from a large city in Western Canada. Here the men were living in the dugout basement of a small hall. No natural light, and no ventilation except through the door. The space was seventeen feet by eighteen feet by eight feet, and in it were living sixteen men.

The extent to which these conditions are typical may be estimated by the fact that in over one hundred and fifty boarding houses visited in twenty cities, by Y.M.C.A. social workers last winter, the average number of cubic feet of air space per man was less than two hundred.

Our immigration legislation has always, and rightly, been designed to eliminate and weed out from the incoming immigrants those who are physically unfit. What does this avail, however, when we practically compel those who do come in, to live under conditions such as this? Is it not time that we realized that the nurture of our immigrants is equally as important as their nature? Is it not incumbent upon us, if only from instincts of self-preservation, to provide adequate housing facilities at a reasonable rental for these future citizens?

One of the most startling facts brought out by the census of 1911 was the immense proportionate increase in our urban population, and while it is impossible to say definitely whether this is a cause or an effect, it is at least interesting to note, that while only 22 per cent. of our total population were living in cities of over 20,000 people, 27 per cent. of those born in Continental

\* W. W. LEE.



Europe are living in these cities. When we consider furthermore that the census was taken in June when many of these would be away engaged in construction work, we realize that the actual percentage was even higher.

As we have said this vast army of unskilled laborers is upon us and many concerns are thriving because of this opportunity of obtaining cheap labor. Are we not in many cases asking them to wear out their bodies in laboring for us without giving them anything in return save the few cents which they are paid? Are we doing our best to better conditions among them socially, morally and intellectually? The following is a letter which recently fell into the hands of the United States Secretary of Labor Wilson. It tells the tale of two little Polish children groping for a blind justice in a land of freedom. Let us use our every effort to see that such things do not occur in fair Canada:

"Dear Sir,- I went to school and heard and read that everybody had rights but my father had worse rights than a dog. Last year my father worked in the cotton mill as a weaver for seven weeks. Three times during those seven weeks my father got less pay than he ought to. First time he spoke to the foreman so he added \$1.65 to it, second time he again got less so he spoke about it, so he added \$1.40 to it, and third time, on the 22nd of November, 1912, he earned \$9.45 so they wanted to give him \$6.55."

"When he spoke about it, that he did not get as much as it ought to, so the superintendent's friend Paul -also a weaver sprang at him with a knife and shuttle and made a few holes in his head. When he sat there and the blood was dripping from him so the superintendent came and told him to walk out of the mill. When my father told him that he is too weak to walk and that he should get a doctor and the police. So he went and got three persons and the four took him and threw him out in the boiler room."

"A man that worked right next to him, took him by

the hand and leaded him to the police station. About two hours passed before they reached here, so he lost a lot of blood and afterwards he lay for three weeks in bed. Before his head healed it took about three months. Not enough that they paid very little so they took about \$3.66 from the small pay yet. We are five children and we want food."

"Now on the 17th of July the Grand jury case was finished and my father does not know anything. Nobody was guilty, nor the one that took the pay, nor the one that half killed him, nor the one that threw him out into the boiler room. Would you not be so kind, and please see if the matter could stay as it is now. Yours ~~and~~ affectionately, 'Adela Wolsky and Vincent Wolsky'."

What a tale of woe! And yet these people left the homes of their childhood to escape oppression!

An investigator of trade accidents and diseases recently stopped to talk with a drug-store clerk in an American industrial town. There were smelters in the district, and construction plants, foundries and construction plants, big works that drew a constant stream of unskilled laborers. He was a Russian chemist, this clerk. He voiced things which had been welling up in him unsopken - the things which the broken and half sick men who came to his counter made him feel.

These are the verses, bearing the signature of Gordon Thayer:

"Breed us more men, ye Daughters of Toil;  
Ye alien mothers in far-off lands,  
Sire them strongly, clean brawn and bone,  
For we sift from the chaff the wheat alone,  
When they come to die at our hands.

Think on our greed in <sup>your</sup> travail-throes,  
Think ~~off~~ us when ye bare your breast,  
Mine and smelter shall claim their toll,



Reads shall be broken and reach their goal,  
 Though ye smell their blood from the West.

We build us strong on your woman's woe  
 Pier of granite and iron span,  
 Glare of furnace and caisson's gloom,  
 Cranes and derrick, shall rear the Tomb  
 Of him whom ye gave us, - a Man.

Seas shall not bar your sons from harm;  
 Steppe or forest or alpine slope,  
 Our arms are long to grasp what we need,  
 The New World springs from your trampled seed;  
 Ye drain the dregs of our draught of Hope."

In concluding our remarks upon the economic effects of immigration we shall make use of the words of Hall who says that they have been "the settling of the new portions of the country, the exploiting its industries more speedily than it would otherwise have been possible, the development of the factory system, and stimulating the invention and use of machinery requiring no great skill for its operation. Immigration has also resulted in the greater organization of industry and the stratification of society . All these things doubtless would have come sooner or later without immigration, but the influx of such large numbers of producers has probably hastened their advent." \*

#### THE PROBLEM OF ASSIMILATION.

From a national view point possibly the most vital phase of the whole subject of immigration is the question of assimilation. That certain races of immigrants will not assimilate, has been the constant cry on this continent during the past ten years. Exactly what do we mean by that glib term "Assimilate"? What steps have

\* HALL.

we taken to achieve it? What point of contract have we established towards that desirable end? What has been our attitude towards these people? Has it not been one of assumed superiority and aloofness? Have we not accepted superficial standards of assimilation, which have in many instances been only external imitations, and which in the final analysis wrought ruin to the child of the immigrant? The term "assimilation" implies a conformation to a standard, and too often we have been inclined to make ourselves and our own institutions the only standard. This treatment infers that the immigrant brings nothing with him that is of value, except his muscle, and that consequently the sooner he gives up all his own ideals and ideas, and accepts ours, the better. Rob a man of the beliefs he acquired in his childhood, get him to make fun of his national customs and ideals, take from him his ideas of social relations, of patriotism, of religion, and you leave him a bitter and discontented man, - fertile ground in which to sow the seeds of anarchy and atheism.

Assimilation should be rather the conserving to these coming Canadian the best of that which they bring to us, and the adding to that, the best and truest ideals of our national life. In doing this must we permit the immigrant to work out his own salvation? If not - how shall we proceed? We contend that we shall accomplish this process of assimilation only by extending the scope of our various educational institutions, and in that connection the problem of immigration is not the immigrant - but the Canadian!

#### THE SOCIAL PROBLEM.

These arrivals from other lands have brought with them habits and customs which have been handed down from their ancestors and which the descendants fondly love and cherish. Because they differ materially from our

own, we are prone to denounce them. Surely many of our Canadian customs appear ridiculous to some of these people from other lands. It is the duty of every Canadian society or institution, yea, of every Canadian citizen~~ship~~ who has the interests of his country's future at heart, to make a study of the conditions under ~~which~~ <sup>which</sup> these immigrants lived in their home lands. It will then be easier to understand the task that lies before us. In noticing their weaknesses we neglect making observation of their good qualities, and we of course forget that we have ourselves many agents of evil that require attention.

In considering the social effects of immigration we cannot but notice the heavy burden upon our charitable institutions caused thereby. In practically all our large cities this burden is felt and unless our policy regarding immigration is changed, conditions will be even worse in the years to come. Then again we have already noticed that of those who have come to our shores, but a small percentage has been refused admittance. Consequently, owing to its more or less superficial nature, the present medical inspection of immigrants is far from satisfactory and many who are diseased, escape detection. It has been proposed recently, by a prominent Winnipeg physician, that the history of families in foreign lands be looked into by Canadian officials before any of their representatives are allowed to set sail for Canada.

The unwarranted and unsubstantial statement, that European immigration has resulted in increased crime, has probably excited more antipathy to, and prejudice against the immigrant, than any other one factor. When we analyze the facts however, there is no essence of truth in that statement. During the five years 1906 to 1911, of the 51,685 persons convicted of indictable offences in Canada, only 10.8 per cent. of them were natives

of Southern Europe; but in that same period, the proportion of adult males from Southern Europe to the total adult male population of the country was 12.8 per cent. Therefore instead of being more criminal than the native population they are actually less so.

When we come however to consider this subject in its relationship to the children of foreign born parents, we are faced by some startling and pregnant facts. Social workers in the United States have been unanimous in the opinion that the children of foreign born parents are far more criminal in their tendencies than those of English speaking ones, and figures would indicate that a similar condition is found here in Canada.

In view of the accepted belief that the solution of the immigration problems rests in the second generation, it behooves us to look for, and remedy if possible, the causes of this unhappy tendency. The child of the immigrant may be said to stand between two civilizations, that of the old World as represented by his home and parents, and of the new as represented by his environment, education, etc. The unwise and unjust tendency on the part of the English speaking population to openly despise and treat as inferior the parents of these children, must inevitably be reflected in the children's attitude towards their parents.

The point involved is well illustrated in the story of ~~the~~ the New York Italian, who one day had occasion to punish his boy who was born on this continent. The boy in telling a chum about it afterwards said, "I didn't mind being licked, but I hated to have one of those --- dagoes lay hands on me". Amusing? Possibly! But pitifully true in its reflection of the general attitude expressed by Canadians and Americans.

This however is only one of the contributing factors to this immigrant child delinquency. Many of these children are attending our schools, learning our language

and absorbing our customs. The time comes when the child has to be the interpreter of this new Canadian life to the parents, and very soon there is a tendency for the child to first lose respect for, and then begin to despise the parents. Then sets in that abnormal home relationship, when parental control is entirely lacking and of which the Juvenile Court records show the results.

In considering the social problem created by immigration we must not overlook the fact that many of the immigrants are illiterate and uneducated even in their own language. Thousands upon thousands of non-English speaking people have come to our country, and "this ignorance of our language is a barrier that largely isolates them from us and our institutions". Illiteracy and poverty are poor assets and too many of these new arrivals are afflicted by both.

#### THE POLITICAL PROBLEM.

Owing to the fact that these immigrants soon obtain the franchise, they, at an early stage, have made their influence felt in Canada. Newspapers printed in different languages and political societies and clubs flourish in our midst. In many parts of the country they hold the balance of power. Many of these people do not realise the great importance of this privilege and so it is open to gross abuses. The "Northwest Review" thus expressively remarks upon existing conditions in many parts of Canada:-

"Most of them (the foreign settlers) have been unaccustomed to the ballot and consequently fail to realize its importance or value. A one-dollar Dominion bank note looks large to them and they are most responsive to little kindnesses. The politician knows this and with his sunny smile and beguiling ways works his way into their confidence only to betray it when his object is attained. Their moral uplift or permanent betterment never appeals to his

elastic conscience - supposing for the moment that he has sufficient conscience left to permit of elasticity. He regards them as legitimate prey.

"The one great danger for such schemes is the acquisition of the English language by our immigrant population. The earlier they acquire a working knowledge of it the earlier they obtain a grasp upon the political system of Canada. And just as soon as they appreciate the situation the death knell of the ward politician is sounded.

"Our foreign-born population is beginning to realize this fact. True it is, unfortunately, that some members of their own race and nationality are found who, for political preferment or some paltry consideration, are willing to play into the hands of their enemies, but even their day is rapidly passing. The better element among them are most desirous of learning the English language. They appreciate its necessity and are anxious to take their proper place in the development of their adopted country. This they cannot do without a knowledge of English, and they know it." \*

There is considerable of truth in these statements, and we can at least readily see where political corruption and irregularities might, with comparative ease, be practiced. To grant the franchise to a man who does not know enough of our language to thank us for it, is, in our opinion, a most dangerous piece of political business. To grant such a privilege to these people and at the same time to refuse it to the thousands of female University graduates throughout our land is on the face of it ridiculous. We do not wish to place ourselves on record as being in favor of woman suffrage, but we fail to see the justice of giving a non-English speaking, illiterate, ignorant Russian, the power of using the ballot, which in places may give him the means of overthrowing some of

the most cherished ideals of our wives and mothers. Yes, we allow the foreign settlers of our towns and cities to step forth - no we drive them forth in cabs and automobiles, on election day, to cast their votes for the men who have the choicest brands of cigars, the longest purse, and the largest supply of vile whiskey. Disgraceful? Could we adopt any better means of degrading ~~an~~ already degraded people! And what is worse than all this, we are helping to rear those who must along with our own children be classed as Canadian citizens. A few years ago a Chinese youth was converted by an American missionary. He decided to come to Canada and take a medical course at Toronto University. He had heard such tales of Heaven from the missionary that as he neared our shores, he felt that he was approaching a land like unto Heaven. Surely, thought he, when I meet with men such as the good missionary, I shall have a better idea of Heaven. He landed and he saw us with the eyes of a newly converted Oriental. "I was disappointed", said he later to a fellow medical student, "and I thought it was as nearly like Hell as I ever expected to see any place on this earth. The poor heathen in China are in less need of missionaries than your lower classes here." Rather exaggerated, of course. But perhaps it is all the better that these poor heathen, who listen to our gowned spiritual advisers, do not know some of the conditions that exist here.

"Men sell their votes for five dillars, because they do not feel that Canada is their country", said Dr. McIntyre, in a recent address at the city of Winnipeg. "They feel that five dollars is all they can get out of Canada. If you asked these men whether they sold their vote in their own country they would be shocked at the very thought." \*

Not all our immigrants have been used to our so-called free institutions, and they do not all understand or value

the franchise as do some of our Canadians. A Polish immigrant whose name was on the list was urged to go to the poles to cast his vote. As he was both temperate and honest he could see no reason why he should go and replied, "Me no vote - me no drink."

Rev. J.S. Woodsworth, one of Western Canada's leading lights in the work of uplifting the foreigner, in referring to this situation states: "During a recent election campaign in this province (Manitoba), I was called into a committee room and shown a very interesting document. It came from a foreign church and certified that the congregation had duly appointed certain men mentioned to act for the parish in the election. "It was signed by the pastor and his leading officials. The communication was addressed to one of the candidates. In all probability the other candidate received a similar letter." \* This writer goes on to state that a political friend had informed him that the latter's party "had given \$175 to the spiritual head of a church for a sermon the Sunday before election day." \*

He further writes: "Another political friend of mine, a foreigner, belonging by the way to the other political party, solemnly told me that he tried to be just as honest as he could. "But", he added, with a deprecatory shrug, "You know how it is in politics, and a man with a wife and family can't be too independent." \* At present this man is anxious to reform and is retaining as much as possible of the campaign funds so that he may save enough to buy a farm and retire and live an honest life.

"You can denounce the foreigner who takes the bribe, but where lies the guilt?" \*

We have given them the franchise before we have educated them up to a knowledge of its value. Let us set about the task of enlightening them regarding our Government, in order that they may intelligently cast



their votes. As matters stand at present few of them see beyond their own little settlements. The building of a small culvert ~~therein~~<sup>^</sup> will often gain the political support of an entire colony.

#### THE RELIGIOUS PROBLEM.

Yes, the Church in Canada has its problem! To a small extent it is assisting in the work of Canadianizing these thousands who have lately crossed the threshold of this coming nation. But, as a whole our churches are too exclusive. The ill-clad foreigner would not feel at home in the presence of such finery as we see in most of our congregations. We cannot expect it of them. We must go to them in their own settlements and in their own homes. We must greet them as we pass them by on our city or village streets. Here is a story of a poor half-witted old Galician who lives on a lonely Saskatchewan homestead. The old man knows little English but after a visit to the nearest town of Kamsack, he invariably goes to all the people for miles around and proudly tells them that when in town, "every Englishman he met shook hands with him". Such is the delusion of a demented foreigner! Truly it is a delusion! Would that it were true!

In the town of Yorkton, in the same province, lives a more or less prosperous Doukhobor merchant. Last year his little son was drowned in a nearby lake. At the time of the funeral a large number of sympathetic English citizens was present. The poor old man was deeply touched and with tears in his eyes, he expressed a wish to have a photograph of those present, "because there were so many English people there." Those thoughtful citizens who came to help this poor parent to bear his grief, by their very presence preached a more effective sermon than could any of our well-groomed ministers from their pulpits.

The immigrants are calling to us to help them! But in

assisting them we must not set about our task with the sole intention of strengthening our own particular religious denomination. It is the hand of Christian fellowship that they long for. Louis Kon, of Winnipeg, who declares himself to be a Canadian citizen of Ruthenian birth, and who is head of the immigration department of one of the largest railway companies, is strongly in favor of the establishment of an organization to give the foreigner a higher ideal of life, and this to be conducted on purely undenominational lines. At a meeting of the Industrial Bureau of Winnipeg last September, he thus expresses his opinion of this great question:

"We Slavs", said Mr. Kon, "are here, we are coming here in large numbers, and the problem has got to be solved." Explaining that he was in charge of the immigration department of one of the largest railways, he came in contact with large numbers of these people and understood the situation. "I don't plead for anything", he affirmed, "We have nothing to plead for. We want you Anglo-Saxons, who lead in the civilization of the world, to give us the benefit of your civilization as your simple duty. We came here because we had to come, and because you need us as the industries of Canada are only beginning to be developed. The day of the Britisher working as a common laborer is past and more for your self-preservation than from any sentimental point of view. You should not forget that we are living in an age when everything is on an economic basis.

"What are you doing for us? We who are bringing in physical force and willingness to work; a willingness to make our homes here, and an incentive that eventually our civilization may be what that of you Anglo-Saxons and you Canadians ought to be and is supposed to be. Up to now what is the crystalized ideal of Canadian life you have put before us? I have never heard of any. I have

never seen yet what the social and moral reform league has done to uplift us foreigners and make us good citizens. It has done nothing at all to make us good citizens; to approach us from the national point of view.

"The majority of us," Mr. Kon pointed out, "are either Roman Catholics or Greek Catholics, and my countrymen are more afraid than anything else of becoming Protestants. Our ministers, our priests, tell us, &don't come in contact with the English-speaking people because if you do you will become Protestants.' If you want us to become good Canadians from the Presbyterian, Anglican, Methodist or any other point of view you will never succeed. You will have to make us good Canadian citizens from the pure, national, broad-minded, human stand-point as Canadians should be.

"I am proud to be a Canadian", he declared, "and I hold you people of the Anglo-Saxon race should realize your duty in this situation. You have certain duties and responsibilities and you should not forget you were enjoying the benefits of your civilization when we were horse-whipped slaves, chattels of our own land-owners.

In referring to the Canadian Welfare League which bids fair to become a powerful agent in the solution of our immigration problems, Mr. Kon said, "We need this Canadian Welfare League. We must have a Canadian organization to show to us foreigners, you won't want us to belong to a certain church but to become good Canadians, to put before us the ideals of Canadians. You should not forget that in cities like Winnipeg there is a large number of foreigners who don't come in contact with English-speaking people at all. They live far worse than at home; in fact they have no proper homes; nothing but those wretched boarding houses; no homes as they ought to be. It is up to you Canadians to do something for us. We are doing our share of work and it is up to you to do the rest of it." (Winnipeg 'Tribune', Sept. 16, 1913).

We agree with Mr. Kon in his assertion that we must approach this problem from no narrow point of view. Let us through our social service work, our Welfare Leagues, our Peoples Missions, our Y.M.C.A. and our public schools, give these people a clear idea of our advanced ideas of citizenship and strengthen their intelligence, with the hope that those groping in the darkness of uncertain unbeliefs may for themselves view the true light.

What can I do?

Many are deeply interested in promoting the welfare of these people from other lands, but they are hopelessly at sea as to what methods of procedure they can take. Let us offer a few suggestions. All of us can be fair and honest in our business dealings with them. All of us can let them see that we are interested in them by courteous and sympathetic treatment when we come in contact with them. Those who of us are qualified to do so may assist in establishing classes in the foreign quarters, for the teaching of English. Public school trustees should insist upon the children of the foreigner attending school regularly, and in towns and cities the School Boards should establish night classes for the teaching of English to those who labor by day. By way of illustrating what can be done here, we take the liberty of referring to the excellent results obtained from such work in the town of Yorkton, Saskatchewan. Here it may be said that Yorkton was the first town in Saskatchewan, where a night school for foreign men and women, was opened under the auspices of the Public School Board. The school was first established in January, 1913, under the able direction of Miss Mary Legate, one of the most efficient teachers in the West, and one who has given this work of educating the foreigner, most thoughtful consideration. During the year ending December, 1913, there were one hundred and eighty-one students enrolled, and these represented nine

nationalities. The ages ran from fourteen to fifty-five and the number of males and females was one hundred and seventy-five and six respectively. Many of these of course did not attend the whole year as they had to leave town for various reasons, and many, from the surrounding country desired to attend but no accomodation could be obtained for them. During January of this year (1914) there were sixty two enrolled, fifteen of these being females. Although, as one can readily see, there was by far too much work for but one teacher, rapid progress has been made, and the gift of a beautiful gold chain and locket to Miss Legate at the end of the year, shows how these coming Canadians appreciate her efforts on their behalf. And yet these people were the too-often despised Galicians, Germans, Doukhobors, Russians, Bulgarians, French, Jews, Poles and Norwegians!

Miss Legate thus describes her work at Yorkton:

"The Night School for the non-English people opened on Jan. 15th. 1913, there being fifteen students in attendance. When we closed in June eighty students had entered our school and during the months November and December sixty nine new students were enrolled. Since we opened on Jan. 5th, 1914, twelve new members have been added to our class.

"These students comprise working men, domestics, and mothers and a few boys, who through force of circumstances have been compelled to leave school. Nine nationalities have been represented in our class, the Ruthenians, Germans and Doukhobors seeming to take the most interest in the work.

"The men seem anxious to get along and to have their families to do so. One evening when entering the school two little children followed by a man came along. I recognized the children as day school students and soon learned that the man was their father. On making enquiry regarding

his education, the little girl in a plaintive voice said, "He never learned his A.B.C." The father attended most of last winter and his cousin who is more familiar with English than he, said that his Boss said he was all right now, meaning that he could understand and carry out orders given in English.

"A young man came to the class in March. He spoke fairly good English but had no knowledge of reading or writing in any form, and he was badly handicapped by deficient eye-sight, being unable to see the work on the black-board at all. His clothing was very poor and not clean; so much so that it was very unpleasant to be near him. I placed him at my own desk where he could see a little work on the black-board and where individual work could be given him. I advised him to get glasses, directing him to a specialist in the town. He procured the glasses, but when asked if he could see better now, he said, "No, I cannot see any better!". I encouraged him to continue wearing them, mentioning a friend of mine had to become accustomed to hers before she could see well. He did so and can see quite well now.

"A fee was now charged and he asked to be trusted until he was paid, so of course this was granted. He had employment all summer and he bought a new suit and has cleaned himself up so well that those who know his condition when he came, can scarcely realize it. He is now attending the day school as well as the night school and is now in a position to help himself.

"One man asked if his wife might come and of course permission was given. We had five couples attending at one time and they succeeded well. We have an old lady who is fifty-five years old who is learning to read and write and it is surprising to see how she gets along.

"A mother and daughter are learning English in the

same class.

"Many of these men are working hard all day so find it hard to attend every night the session being from 7,00 to 10.00 P.M. The women often go out working all day and too find it a little tedious but they come about three nights a week. Others have small children who must be looked after, so they cannot be left every night.

"The domestics are allowed to attend three nights a week. Just here, I might mention that great assistance is being given to some of the students by the mistresses of the homes and this very much facilitates the progress of the student. I shall enclose a number of sentences given by a young Norwegian girl who has not been in this country five months. She fully understands each one as I had her explain the difficult words to the class. Her mistress has shown a very great interest in her."

The sentences enclosed were as follows:-

Miss Albertine Aronsen. Norwegian, not five months in Canada.

There is a baby in our house, he is determined to get into the kitchen.

I am very glad that the severity of the weather is moderating.

I must not neglect my study of English as I wish to learn it quickly.

I consider the night school is a great advantage to any one coming from other countries where English is not spoken.

I heard that many articles of clothing are manufactured in Canada.

"One form of exercises we have", continues Miss Legate, "is to have each member of the class tell something new if possible, that he or she has seen, or has heard, or has done or to tell something interesting.

"One man said, "I saw some guys going down the street."

At first I could not understand what he meant, but when he explained it, I learned he meant men or boys. On being told that that is poor English he said I heard English fellows say that. This makes it very clear how careful we should be in speaking.

"During January and February some of us have visited sixteen of the homes of these people. Some of them were clean and comparatively neat, considering the difficulties under which they were working, the smallness of the houses and the large families living in them.

"Others were not clean and were over-crowded. In one Ruthenian home composed of two rooms we found a man, his wife and child and her sister, a girl of about sixteen, also three other men apparently relatives. The conditions here were very uninviting indeed. The girl is a student in our school and her personal appearance seems to be improving very much.

"In most cases the homes are bare and lacking in comforts of every kind.

"Our visits were well received by most of the women and they seem to appreciate fully anything that is done for them, and they try to express their appreciation in gifts at the Christmas season. Several students brought gifts which I hesitated to accept but I saw that it would wound if I did not do so. A number of the class clubbed together and bought a beautifully engraved gold locket and chain and gave it to me. They showed good taste in anything they gave. One brought a muffler and I said, 'that is just my color,' and he said, 'I saw the color of your hat.'

"I have found the students respectful and gentlemanly and quick to pick up our English ways. Their customs, of course are very different to ours and in many things their ideals are different. They seem, however, to be ready to learn the good and when asked to refrain from anything offensive, they have always seemed ready and



willing to do so.

"Having the permission of our School Board to open our schools with the Lord's Prayer, I have done so. One evening at the close a Ruthenian requested that I give them a prayer. I hesitated a little, but on asking, I learned that nearly every one present wished it so I wrote the Lord's Prayer on the board and all who wished copied it. We usually close with the National Anthem."

Furthermore we can assist by teaching our children to be kind and courteous to the foreign children. Too often we do the direct opposite. "The foreign child is too dirty," we hear on every hand. True, in many cases he is! But the longer that foreign child remains dirty, the longer we are in not doing our duty! We shall see, in discussing the educational problem from the public school standpoint, how the idea of cleanliness may, with comparative ease, be transmitted to these people. Did you ever think of inviting some of these people to your neatly arranged home and letting them see what cleanliness means to the appearance of the home? Perhaps your Galician washerwoman has viewed the sacred precincts of your well polished drawing room, through the partly open door! But, such things are for Canadians! The kitchen for the poor washerwoman! Friend! Are you aware that every little act of kindness to one of these people, places you upon a high pedestal in the minds of these people. The writer once assisted a poor foreign lad, in a comparatively small way. Later his father came to us and with heart bared and outstretched hands, he said in his broken English, "Tank you meester, Me no talk English - you good man." Gratitude! Yes, we have a far clearer idea of this term, when we meet with such experiences!

#### THE EDUCATIONAL PROBLEM.

Here we shall deal with the part played by the Public Schools of Canada in helping to solve the important educational

problems arising from such a sudden influx of non-English speaking people. No one will deny that to a very large extent the future of any nation depends upon its educational system. If the foundations of citizenship be imperfectly laid by our public schools the superstructure cannot but be frail and unstable. In our cities and towns we find conditions most promising. Here we have generally speaking good teachers, energetic trustees and interested pupils. The child of the immigrant, in the larger centres usually has greater advantages from this point of view than his brother in the rural districts. Lack of sufficient qualified teachers, irregularity of attendance, carelessness of school boards, lack of sympathy on the part of teachers, a feeling of apathy on the part of parents,- these are some of the reasons why our foreign children in the country districts are not receiving the care and attention they should be receiving. In Manitoba, it is stated that there are thousands of children who are not attending any school. In Saskatchewan conditions are much more hopeful. Schools are being organized at the rate of more than one a day and the provincial Normal schools are placing more emphasis on the methods of teaching English in so-called foreign districts. In this province the teachers are not allowed to make use of the bi-lingual system in use in Manitoba, and the best results have been obtained when the teacher knows nothing of the child's native tongue.

The following article from our own pen, which appeared in the Yorkton "Enterprise" of Jan. 29, 1914, sets forth conditions as they exist in Saskatchewan at the present time:

"There is no greater or more serious problem facing us in Canada today than that of education. In our Western provinces the importance of this problem is especially marked. Owing to the great influx of those from foreign lands, who have no knowledge of the English tongue, a great work must be done, and this largely through the medium of our Public Schools.

Here in Saskatchewan we have the problem in all its greatness, but we feel hopeful as we perceive signs of its solution.

"A few years ago a school was established at Regina for the training of young men of foreign parentage, with a view to sending them out as agents of influence in the various 'foreign' communities. Although this school is open to representatives of every nationality, few but the Ruthenians have taken advantage of it. Before gaining admission, these students must be able to speak, read and write English in a manner satisfactory to our educational authorities. This has proven an incentive to attendance at our public schools in order to enable them to qualify for entrance to this training school. It is to be regretted that more are not taking advantage of this institution. Why have we not representatives of our German, Finnish, Hungarian or Bohemian settlers, taking advantage of this opportunity to better conditions among their people here.

"These young men after a careful training at this institution are sent on to the Provincial High Schools to qualify in the regular way for teachers' diplomas. It is very gratifying to see that over a dozen students, attending our local Collegiate Institute, are of foreign parentage. Still great evidence of progress is to be seen from the fact that several of these former Regina students are attending the Yorkton Normal School this year.

"Of those in attendance at our local Normal School two are Ruthenians, one Polish, one Russian, three Icelandic and one German. None of these students hold less than a third class non-professional certificate, and it is significant to notice that the first four mentioned obtained their diplomas at the Yorkton Collegiate. These students will go out into our rural schools, we trust, to brighten the lives of dozens of the little ones who are eager for the sympathy of a kind teacher.

"What a duty lies before them! There are hundreds of

little children throughout our rural foreign districts, possessing inherent qualities which upon being developed will bear the stamp of greatness. In many cases the parents place little or no value upon the importance of preparing their little ones for the uncertain future that lies before them. The teacher must here act in loco parentis. It is his duty so to do, - his duty to himself, to the child, to the parents, to the community and to the state. There is not a citizen in Saskatchewan today, upon whose shoulders lies such a burden of responsibility, as that which presses upon the public school teacher. Fellow teacher! Think over this! Dream of it! If you fail to recognize this as a fact - do not proceed further - leave the profession, - it would be a crime to continue!

"The accompanying illustration represents a merry gathering of little 'foreign' children, who are getting their start towards useful manhood and womanhood under a large-hearted sympathetic Saskatchewan teacher! Will they succeed? Young teacher that depends on you!\*

"It is claimed by some, fortunately by the minority, that a knowledge of the child's mother tongue is essential to the successful teaching of English. We are very firmly of the opinion that this theory is misleading.

"The writer has found from experience that more rapid progress is made when the teacher does not know a word of the child's language. In the case of some schools where the teacher's knowledge of English is slight the work of four or five terms may result in only a few disconnected English phrases, with no progress whatever in the direction of citizenship. In certain schools, moreover, half-a-dozen different languages are spoken by the pupils. Here is an example of what can be done in a school among foreigners by a patient and sympathetic English-speaking teacher. His experience is given in his own words:

"I am very firmly of the opinion", he begins, "that least progress is made where the teacher makes use of the

language of the child even to the slightest degree. There is absolutely no need for it. For some years I taught among the Icelandic people in Manitoba, and thinking I could make more rapid progress if I knew something of the elementary principles of their language, I began to study it. Upon acquiring a knowledge of their everyday speech I made use of it with classes of beginners. Needless to say I quickly abandoned this method as I made much more rapid progress when I knew nothing of the language. I made add that I was the first English-speaking teacher they had ever had at this school, and when I left they had at once began to look for an opponent of bi-lingualism, and the Icelandic people are our most enlightened class of incomers.

"After leaving Manitoba I took charge of a school in a large foreign settlement in Saskatchewan. I distinctly remember the long, dreary drive of twenty-five miles, through hail and slush, behind a patient ox-team, as my secretary escorted me from the little railway siding.

"Next morning I met my trustees, only one of whom, a Swede, was able to speak to me. Of the other two one was a Hungarian and the other a Pole. I ascertained that it had been proclaimed throughout the neighborhood that I was to open school that morning, and I further learned that it was a new school and they had never had a teacher before. I was informed by the Swede, a very genial fellow, that most of the people had never seen a Canadian teacher, and he smiled as he added that there were seven nationalities represented in this district.

"If I had had enough cash to accomplish the feat, I would have taken the first train East or even farther. But I resolved to try and do my duty for a time at least. Upon my early arrival at the schoolhouse I found that several sleigh-loads had got there before me, and upon entering the room I found over fifty boys and girls standing around the box-stove. The parents stood around the door and all eyed

me curiously, One or two of the more enlightened said 'Good-day, meester', which was practically their entire fund of English.

"After some little difficulty I persuaded the parents that they were to go home, and then I turned to my prospective pupils. After I had them all seated I took my place before them. I soon learned that over forty of them knew absolutely no English, not even 'Yes' or 'No'.

"Space does not permit a detailed description of the excellent work of this teacher, but reference must be made to the general results of his efforts. The feeling of aversion soon wore off and he became intensely interested in teaching these children English. In a few days there were making use of English sentences, executing commands and playing games. At the same time filthy clothing was discarded and the little girls began to appear in cleaner dresses. The boys now made free use of towels, soap and combs, and instead of the huge 'chuks' of bread, in a filthy rag, there soon appeared neatly wrapped lunches, with the bread carefully sliced. Thus the work went merrily on! The enrolment reached over sixty in three months.

"Then came a grand union picnic of the six or seven schools in the vicinity. A large parade was held and the pupils of the school mentioned won first prize for the best marching and general appearance! How proud those parents were! The accompanying cut shows the group of over two hundred children, representing over a dozen nationalities. The six English-speaking teachers are sitting in front, and each child proudly waves a Union Jack. A great many Canadians were made that day!

"After summer vacation the teacher referred to returned to the now beloved work with renewed vigor and the fall term culminated in a grand concert on Christmas Eve. Over forty items appeared on the programme and over forty children read, recited, took part in dialogues or sang, and every

word used belonged to the English language. It was quite interesting to listen to seven boys, each reciting a verse from 'The Choice of Trades', and each boy belonging to a different nationality. At the conclusion of the programme a beautiful Christmas tree was robbed of its presents and many a little heart thereby made glad. Then came the national anthem by these little coming citizens, and as they lustily sang, their more or less ignorant parents looked on with smiling faces.

"Thus in about nine months these children obtained a good working knowledge of our language, were given an insight into the social side of Canadian life, and were started on the march upward. All this happened about four years ago, but this good work is going on still, and one Polish boy from this original class obtained a third class teacher's diploma this year.

"This incident not uncommon in Saskatchewan, emphasizes the contention that the English-speaking teacher can best inculcate the ideas so essential in laying the foundation of true citizenship in Canada. The foreign teacher in many cases cannot be expected to do this, until he himself becomes properly qualified to do so. The great problem of assimilation will be pushed nearer solution, when these teachers pass through our High Schools and enter the profession on an equal footing with our Canadian teachers. Within a few miles on every side of the above district are foreign schools that have always been under foreign teachers, and except for a barely noticeable ability to speak a little English nothing has been accomplished. And after all the ability to speak our language is the least important part of the educational problem."

What our Public Schools in Canada should aim at is to give these children of non-English speaking parents, a knowledge of our language as soon as possible. No one will deny the obvious need of these children learning the

language of the country in which they expect to remain, and in whose Government they will have to take a part. When there are differences of opinion they relate to the best methods of supplying this need. There are two methods in use in Canada, the first the Direct Method which is the name given to the method of teaching a language without the intermediary of the maternal tongue: the second is the Indirect or Bi-lingual Method. The majority of authoritative writers and teachers favor the former and we thoroughly agree with them. Many of us have spent several years in the study of French or German in the High Schools and Universities. yet if we were to visit either France or Germany, how many of us could carry on a fluent conversation with the French or German citizen? The old method of teaching modern languages would be the cause of our embarrassment. We were taught by the Indirect Method. We can read and write the language, perhaps, but as regards speaking in that tongue, we feel powerless to a marked degree. "The object of the Direct Method, is to take away this feeling of powerlessness, it is to change a dead language into a living practice, for this heavy mass of undigested facts to substitute a readiness to make use of the knowledge already acquired, in a word for a 'knowledge' to substitute a 'power'." \*

The Direct Method of teaching a language is the natural method similar to that by which the little child first learns to speak, - by listening to the repetition of sounds and associating these sounds with interesting objects. The child should be taught first to speak, then to read, then to write, although our own experience warrants us in asserting that the majority of foreign children will learn to write with comparative ease, and also to read the sentences used in conversation, when these are placed before them on paper or blackboard. But ability to converse is the first consideration! One foreign parent whose boy had

\* ERTON IN "QUEEN'S QUARTERLY" ... JUNE, 1913.



been 'reading' for some time at school, remarked, "My boy read four books. He no speak English. What's de matter?" That ignorant parent knew wherein his boy's teacher was erring.

We have said that investigation shows that the best results are obtained through the Direct Method of teaching a foreign child the language of our country. But this success depends upon certain conditions. The classes must not be too large, twenty pupils being enough for one teacher. There must be incessant repetition: the teacher must proceed systematically and from the known to the unknown; the lessons must be such as will arouse and sustain the interest of the pupils; and lastly the success or failure of the methods depends largely upon the personality of the teacher. He must believe in the method and he must be in sympathy with these children who are anxious to learn our language. Would that we had enough teachers of this type!

*J. S. M. Anderson.*  
*Yorktown, La. sk.*  
*Mar. 2, 1914.*