

belief that our neighbors will adopt drastic measures of exclusion in the near future. Such a policy would turn the tide largely to the Dominion, and a few years of such an influx as the Americans have recently experienced would be an injury to our standard of citizenship which could not be repaired in one or two generations.

Canada must be prepared to follow the republic, and, if necessary, to take the lead in this matter. At present some of the best elements in the American population, the farmers of the western States, are coming to Canada in large numbers. This appreciation of Canadian advantages is most gratifying, but it is significant of a coming danger. The **undesirable** classes of Europe will also learn of Canada's advantages, and that will turn toward the Dominion the baneful tide now setting toward the United States. From active encouragement our neighbors have turned to a policy of discouragement and exclusion. The republic has been unfortunately slow in realizing the necessity for a change, and Canada should profit by the lesson of that dereliction.

THE IMMIGRATION PROBLEM.

The American Republic is learning lessons of experience in regard to **immigration**, which may be quite as profitable and far less costly to the Dominion. The returns for the year ending with June last show that the alien arrivals reached the unprecedented number of 857,046. This is an increase of 208,573, or thirty-two per cent. over the preceding twelve months, and exceeds by nearly seventy thousand the previous high-water mark of 1882, when the number of arrivals under lax immigration laws rose to 788,992. The great bulk of this last year's influx, 672,726, were from Italy, Austria-Hungary and Russia. From Italy, including Sicily and Sardinia, came 230,622, an increase of 52,247 over the preceding twelve months; from Austria-Hungary, 206,011, an increase of 34,022, and from the Russian Empire and Finland, 136,093, an increase of 28,746. Great Britain and Germany, the countries which formerly made the chief contributions to American **immigration**, sent only 60,000 and 40,000 respectively.

These figures appear in striking contrast to the record of 1883, two decades earlier, when the German arrivals numbered 195,000, and those from the United Kingdom 158,000, while Italy sent only 32,000, Austria-Hungary 27,000, and Russia 12,000. While the tide of **immigration** is swelling at an unprecedented rate, a serious problem in itself, the quality is deteriorating still more rapidly. The least desirable classes of Europeans are crowding into the American cities. This element is largely illiterate, and the few who cannot be thus classed speak and write alien languages. They are unacquainted with American political ideals, and the freedom and power they enjoy are sources of danger to themselves. Necessarily eager to secure any rate of wages offered, they swell the ranks of cheap labor and tend to bring down the standard of citizenship. And there is even a more serious problem in the proportion of the criminal element in this migration.

At present this influx, although approaching a million a year, is absorbed industrially, if not politically, but it would seriously complicate a period of depression with a large element idle and discontented. Although the United States Government is discouraging **immigration** by stringent regulations, the tide is sustained and swelled by the agents of steamship and transportation companies, who visit the poorest and worst quarters of European cities and encourage the least desirable classes, simply because they are most easily influenced. The general tone of **Immigration** Commissioner Sargent's report and the note of alarm which he sounds regarding both the quantity and quality of last year's influx give grounds for the