

fairly be said that every effort has been made to discourage such men from coming here. The widest publicity is given by the Dominion immigration agents to the statement that Canada can produce all the mechanics, clerks, and men of no calling for whom there is room here. It is repeatedly insisted on that the only classes needed here are farmers, farm laborers, and domestic servants, and these are the only classes who are assisted to come out. People of other occupations are, of course, not denied access to the Dominion. We cannot refuse entrance to a man in sound health and with the necessary \$50 or \$25 in his pocket in addition to his transportation to his destination.

It is stated that many undesirables have come in. All that can be said is that every care is taken to exclude them. Half a million souls have been added to the Dominion in the past few years. It would be a miracle if there were not a small percentage of undesirables who eluded detection among that great number. Undoubtedly a proportion of those who go on the farm get tired of that employment and drift into the cities. That is equally unavoidable, and the process will go on whatever Government is administering affairs at Ottawa. None of the Borden candidates will say that they will endeavor to stop the tide of immigration that is setting towards Canada. To stop that tide would be to stop the progress of the country and to permanently close the doors of many industries in the cities and towns of Canada.

The Borden candidates may promise that greater vigilance will be exerted to stop the inflow of undesirables. It would be impossible to show greater vigilance than is employed now to prevent such people coming in. The Department of Immigration has just issued a blue book setting forth the rules and regulations applied to the matter of immigration, and The Ottawa Journal, commenting on the pamphlet, strong Conservative newspaper though it is, states that whatever criticism may have been urged against the Government immigration policy "the fact remains that this Government has worked hard to induce immigration, and has devised highly creditable means of selection. Under a superintendent of approved energy and ability, Mr. W. D. Scott, a man thoroughly apprised of the requirements of the unpeopled places of the Dominion and with a sympathetic appreciation of the temperament of all the peoples who pass under his hand, the Immigration Department is exceedingly well handled. There should be no reason why immigration of the better class of Britishers and foreigners to Canada should not continue. The admission of the occasional undesirable simply tends to test the rule. On the whole the system seems to be working well."

The desirability of immigration was recognized by Conservative Administrations; the only difference between them and their Liberal successors is that the latter have been more successful in accomplishing their purposes. If there were a change of Governments to-morrow the new Administration could not afford to be indifferent to immigration. The progress of the country depends upon it. If the tide were stopped for a year, even in the most prosperous times, thousands of our artisans would have to flee across the border in search of employment. By all means let us be zealous and vigilant that the best class of settlers be obtained, but let there be no delusion that a new Government would endeavor to stop the settlement of our great undeveloped areas of land.

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Intelligent criticism of the immigration policy will not be complained of, and indeed ought to be welcome, for the more fully it is discussed the fewer prejudices there will be against it. It is especially necessary that workingmen should give the subject their fair consideration. It cannot be denied that there is nothing of more importance to the artisans of the cities of the Dominion than the steady settlement of the country. Every fresh acre that is tilled in any of the Provinces makes busier times in the workshops of the Dominion. The prosperity of the past ten years was in a large measure due to the rapid increase of the areas of cultivation. The present slackening in industry and consequent scarcity of employment is mainly due to commercial and financial difficulties not originating in this country at all.

In addition to the men who have come to work on the farm there are many others, it will be said, who have come to compete in the labor markets of the cities. On behalf of the Government it can