

EXCLUDING UNDESIRABLES.

The strict attention that is being given to all that is involved in the maintenance of a high standard of citizenship is naturally leading to greater care in regard to the immigration of the mentally and physically unfit. The defectives of other countries are not merely a burden, whether able to be at large or requiring detention, but they are apt to perpetuate a criminal or otherwise defective population. The present laws provide for a rigid system of inspection and for the exclusion of all who are defective or are likely to become a charge on the public. Hon. Mr. Oliver has introduced a bill containing such amendments as are necessary to meet the demands of the increasing volume of immigration. The present regulations in regard to immigrants arriving by ocean ports are extended so that they may be applied when necessary to arrivals from the United States. Specific means are provided for the enforcement of all regulations. There are provisions for the appointment of a Board of Inquiry whenever the Department finds it necessary to investigate special cases or deal with the admission of particular immigrants. The law provides that applicants for admission shall not have the right of appeal to the courts until they have passed the immigration officers.

The increased volume of immigration and the tendency of foreign countries to unload their defectives on this country have rendered these extensions of the law necessary. This is shown by the deportation of 263 undesirables from Ontario last year. During the previous year the Ontario authorities deported only 87, and during 1907 only 19 were thus returned. A recent report of the Deputy Provincial Secretary lays stress on the need of strictly enforcing the law with regard to the exclusion of defective girls and boys. These weaklings become a serious menace, and there is no corresponding advantage to them or to the Dominion in permitting their removal from the conditions surrounding them at home. It is necessary that every need in this regard be promptly met by effective legislation, and that all necessary power be accorded officials and inspectors dealing with the inspection and admission of immigrants.