

# GREAT PROBLEM BEFORE CANADA.

## In Decade Half Immigrants Will Not Speak English.

### ADDRESS BY DR. ROBERTS.

Talks on Immigration at Fifth Annual Meeting of Toronto Presbyterial of Women's Home Missionary Society—Mrs. Logie is Elected President.

"Ten years ago eighty-five per cent, of the immigrants coming to Canada spoke English, now seventy per cent. speak English, and in ten years' time, if the same ratio of decrease keeps up, there will be only fifty per cent. of the new citizens annually reaching the shores of Canada who can understand what is said to them in English."

This was the remark of Dr. Roberts, Immigration Secretary of the Y. M. C. A., of New York, while describing the work done by the Y. M. C. A. among immigrant arrivals in the United States. He spoke at the evening session of the fifth annual meeting of the Toronto Presbyterial of the Women's Home Missionary Society at Cooke's Presbyterian Church last night. The members of the Toronto Presbytery were guests.

#### Experiences Among Miners.

That their self-appointed task of teaching the incomers English was not work thrown away Dr. Roberts showed by giving the simple facts that ninety per cent. of the immigrants could not speak English, and that seventy-five per cent. were either Roman Catholic or Greek Catholic in religion. What this meant to foreigners who had to go down a thousand-foot shaft twenty-four hours after arriving at the coal fields in Pennsylvania he made evident by stating that of the four hundred men killed during the year hardly any knew English, and of the twelve hundred disabled the same was true. He felt that under these circumstances the volunteer army of six hundred and fifty young men who were trying to teach the foreigners English were doing a great work. They taught citizenship as well as English.

Mr. Christian Phildeus of Geneva, Switzerland, Secretary of the World's Alliance, and Dr. Taylor, Convener of Immigration in the Toronto Presbytery, also spoke. Mr. Phildeus told what a great influence both in civil and religious matters was being wielded by Italians who had returned from America to their native land. They returned very often converted to Protestantism, and generally with new ideas of the meaning of liberty. The civilizing of Italy, he claimed, was being done on the North American continent.

#### Reports Show Progress.

At the afternoon session of the Presbyterial the reports showed an advance in every department. Four new Auxiliaries have been added. Forty-two bales of supplies, weighing 4,700 pounds, two organs, and a large quantity of literature have been sent to home mission stations. The circulation of The Pioneer, the official magazine, is now 3,157 in the Presbytery. The receipts during the year totalled \$6,000, an increase of nearly \$1,000.

The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Logie; Vice-Presidents (each in charge of one section of the Presbytery), Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. McKerroll, Mrs. Britton, Mrs. Rae, Miss Scott, Mrs. Overend and Mrs. F. W. Anderson; Treasurer, Mrs. Gregg; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Melville White; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Gibson; Supplies, Miss McMichael; Pioneer, Miss Prittle; Hospital, Mrs. G. S. Young; Deaconess, Miss Watson; Educational, Mrs. McLaughlin; Home Helper, Miss Russell; the Press, Mrs. Erickson Brown; Auxiliary Programs, Mrs. J. M. West; Maslon Band Committee (with Miss Riddell as Convener), Miss Dickson, Miss Christian, Miss Somerville, Miss Hendry, Miss Hoey, Miss Hozack, Miss Gartshore, Miss Fraser, Miss Wingate and Mrs. C. P. Smith.

Mr. Duncan McDonald, who had assisted during the summer at the Institutional Church in the north end of Winnipeg, gave glimpses of the work among the foreigners. Miss Sprague, who has just retired from the staff of the Anna Turnbull Hospital at Wakaw, Saskatchewan, thirty-five miles north of Rosthern, described the work of the missionaries in the Ruthenian colony there. About four hundred guests, including the ministers of the Presbytery and their wives and members of the society, were entertained by the ladies of Cooke's Church at tea in the basement at 6 o'clock.