

THE WAVE OF IMMIGRATION.

From among the news in yesterday's papers two facts stand out with startling clearness, indicating that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was right when he said that the twentieth century was Canada's. It is quite certain that the historian who a hundred years hence traces the rise of the Dominion from the position of a feeble colony to that of the leading nation of the British Empire will have much to say of the wave of immigration that is now breaking on our shores. Yesterday's despatches indicated the need for the most careful supervision of the movement. During the first four months of the present fiscal year, from April to July, no less than 155,549 immigrants entered Canada, of whom 100,850 came by ocean ports and the balance of 54,669 from the United States. The pressure from the south is becoming so great that during the past month no less than 300 undesirable immigrants, chiefly persons without the money qualifications called for by the Department, have been turned back at the Detroit River. These two facts are of the greatest significance. They prove that the last West is a magnet drawing the landless from every quarter of the world. They indicate that every agency in the Dominion having anything to do with the Canadianizing of the immigrants must be up and at its task, whether that task be moral, religious, or political education, or the making of provision for the absorption of the newcomers among the present population.

Conservative estimates indicate an inflow of something like 300,000 this year and 400,000 in the year 1911-12. The United States has never had to take care of such a rush in proportion to its population. The incoming wave there rarely exceeds a million a year, or less than one to eighty of the population. Canada will have one immigrant to twenty-five of her population this year, and may be called upon to absorb one to twenty next year. In other words, at the anticipated rate a fourth will be added to the present population of Canada by the immigration of the next five years. Only vast areas of vacant land calling for settlers, mines of incomparable richness, such as those of Cobalt, and railway-building on a colossal scale can absorb such an inflow and enable the immigrants to make a permanent home among us. This is Canada's day of opportunity.