

CANADA SHOULD HELP IMMIGRANTS, NOT DESPISE THEM

Rev. J. S. Woodsworth Speaks on Position of New Settlers in Dominion

"We should give them the very best that we have, and we should take from them the very best that they bring," were Rev. J. S. Woodsworth's closing words in his lecture on "Conserving the Immigrants' Resources," in the university of Alberta Wednesday afternoon, and at McKay Avenue school in the evening.

Mr. Woodsworth pointed out that our resources of men were more valuable and better deserving of consideration than our natural, agricultural, and live stock, resources, to whose conservation and development we give a good deal of attention, while we give little or no attention to the conservation of the immigrants.

He emphasized the fact that the immigrants coming to Canada were men and women coming from countries centuries older in development than ours, many of them skilled workmen and artisans in their own land, yet when coming to Canada unable to work at their special trade because of their ignorance of the English language. Necessarily they turn to that which they can do mechanically, the unskilled labor, giving Canadians the impression that all immigrants are of the lower class of people in their own land.

Artistic Environment.

The immigrant, he claimed, who was born and brought up in Italy, in Germany, Russia, or any of the other countries, had lived all his early life in an atmosphere where the arts have become developed to their highest standing; even though they have not made a special study of art in any of its branches, they have inherited the artistic temperament and instinct and this is one of the great gifts which they bring to us, their love and knowledge of music and art. To them we are indebted for practically all our music, pictures, and sculpture.

Influx of Immigration.

The influx of immigration from different lands was compared to streams rich in deposits which are being poured into Canada, and a plea was made that we conserve these riches.

Instead of this, Mr. Woodsworth stated, we allow the immigrant knowledge of Canada and Canadian lives to be drawn from the worst elements of Canada and Canadian lives, the better class of Canadians isolating themselves from the foreigner rather than make a study of his resources and needs and lend him the hand of brotherhood. We do not put ourselves in the place of these people; we do not realize their position or ours. We despise them and get them to think they are nothing, instead of encouraging their ambitions. We lose sight of the fact that they came from countries where the industrial and cultured systems are well developed.

The subject of Mr. Woodsworth's lecture tonight will be "The Forces which are Canadianizing the Immigrant," and will deal with the educational, social and political influences.