

DEGRADATION OF FOREIGNERS IS CANADA'S MENACE

Future of the Dominion Lies
With the Immigrant, Says
J. S. Woodsworth

WELFARE DEPENDS ON STANDARD OF LIVING

Must Get New Citizens on to
the Land to Make Good
Citizens of Them

"The problem which Canada's foreign immigration presents is not so much how we are going to work the uplift of the foreigner. It resolves itself into how are we going to put an end to the degrading of the foreigner by our own people."

This was, in part, the summing up of J. S. Woodsworth to an instructive address on the immigration problem delivered this afternoon before the Canadian club.

Mr. Woodsworth stated that the future of Canada undoubtedly lies with the immigrant and, if present proportions continue to grow, with the non-English speaking foreigner. While it was impossible to accurately forecast the effect of the war's end upon immigration, it was certain that after the conflict is over there will be a tendency toward increased immigration. Britain, France, Belgium and Germany would require their men to rebuild what was destroyed, but from Russia and Austria Canada will continue to draw large numbers. War loosens old ties and alters trade currents.

Is Canada Ready?

Are we ready for the immigration when it comes? Mr. Woodsworth asked. Unless the present machinery for their assimilation is radically altered, he thought that the flood would prove dangerous. The rough construction work which absorbed the men was on the decline and arrangements must be made to get them onto the land and make steady, productive citizens of them. The welfare of people depends upon the standard of living, and the standard of living is not to be raised by encouraging, through economic conditions, overcrowding in the cities.

He quoted statistics showing that in 1901 Canada had a population of 5,371,000, of which 67 per cent. was British. In March of last year this total had increased by 2,995,922, of which 38 per cent. was British, 34 per cent. American, and 27 per cent. non-English speaking. More than half of this population had come to the four western provinces. Last year 284,000 immigrants came into Canada and this figure showed a decrease over 1914 in every branch except that of non-English speaking people, who increased by nineteen per cent.

Result of Mixing

He wanted to know what the result would be when these were mixed together. What will be the outcome socially, politically and religiously? Mr. Woodsworth spoke appreciatively of the refining influences of art and music which even the roughest of the immigrants bring with them from the old world.

To his mind the great necessity was to insist that every man be given the opportunity, be required to learn the English tongue and to become familiar with the principles underlying British government. It was not the uplifting of the foreigner which was essential but the removal of the degrading influences with which he is surrounded by our politicians.