

Prospects of Immigration

Those who expect a large immigration to Canada after the war should consider some facts that tell the other way. There will be an enormous amount of reconstruction to be done in Europe after the war. The rebuilding of Belgium, Poland, Serbia, and part of France will be a more urgent work than the settling of our lands. It will employ an army of Europeans, and we may even find Canadians and Americans taking part in the work.

We shall have no immigration from central Europe, and probably very little from Russia. Asiatic Russia is nearly twice as large as Canada, and contains vast regions of fertile land, requiring only labor to make it fruitful. Naturally the Russian will prefer to live under his own flag, especially if it is a symbol of free institutions, instead of autocracy; and the Russian Government will do its best to direct migration to its own lands.

There has been very little emigration from France, and France will require all its sons to make up for the ravages of war. All Europe may thus be eliminated from the calculation, except Great Britain, Italy, and the Scandinavian countries. And there is no ground for expecting a rush of population even from these sources. The war is converting Great Britain into an agricultural country. The parks and pleasure places now being used for the production of food will probably be kept for that purpose. That will mean more employment at home, and less emigration.