

UNDESIRABLE IMMIGRANTS.

To the Editor of The Globe: For a number of years it has been evident that our Canadian Government has not been sufficiently careful, in encouraging immigration, to admit only such as we can readily assimilate into actual Canadian citizenship. During the process of the war this has become more than ever apparent, as every observer recognizes. We are greatly indebted to Dr. C. K. Clarke for his timely article in your issue of January 27, emphasizing the importance of this matter in view of the very great number of persons of weak mind, of other more serious mental defects and of criminal tendency admitted to this country because of lack of proper safeguards in the admission of immigrants. I trust that our Government will accord due attention to the deplorable revelations made in Dr. Clarke's article, and to your very important editorial comment on the same.

As a nation Canada must needs be more careful in the selection of immigrants than anxious for a large immigration. We have suffered too much already in the lowering of the moral tone of many communities from the admission of what should have been recognized as undesirables. If we would become a great nation it is not numbers that we should most desire but character. The old, old Bible truth that "righteousness exalteth a nation," is becoming, to thinking minds, more and more evident. Let our Government recognize this and admit only those who give evidence of adaptability to this end.

Why could not our Government in planning an immigration policy, not only arrange for a most rigid scrutiny at the port of debarkation, as suggested by Dr. Clarke, but also insist on the greatest care being exercised by our immigration agents in the various countries whence the immigrants come, and so avoid the unpleasantness of refusing them admittance when they present themselves at our ports?

We welcome the immigrant of suitable qualifications who seeks a place in this land of promise. Our churches are doing a grand work in endeavoring to influence all comers to accept and practise the New Testament principles of life and citizenship. They have a great task to keep up with the work already thrust upon them. The country's weal depends, more than is generally recognized, upon such Christian endeavor. It is incumbent upon our Government to see that our country is not possessed by the immigrant faster than such can be cared for both by the Church and the State if we would avoid national degeneration.

A Canadian.