

BRYCE ON IMMIGRATION.

PAPER READ BEFORE SOCIAL CONGRESS IN NEW YORK.

Canada is Growing Particular in Regard to the Class of Immigrants—How Will Influx of **Foreigners** Affect Loyalty to the Throne?

New York, May 3.—“Some phases of the work of the Canadian Immigration Department” was the subject of an address delivered by Dr. Bryce, chief of the medical inspection branch of the Immigration Bureau, at the American Social Science Congress, held here to-day. As a result of the present immigration policy inaugurated in 1898 immigrants went into the west in the following numbers:—In 1897, 20,016; in 1898, 30,742; in 1899, 44,543; in 1900, 44,697; in 1901, 49,149; in 1902, 67,379; in 1903, 128,364; in 1904, 136,331; in 1905, 146,266.

After outlining the immigration policy of the Dominion Government Mr Bryce said:—**Canada** wants immigrants; she invites and welcomes them; but, like the United States, she is growing particular. She wants desirable immigrants, and as resolutely refuses the undesirable. This is quite well known now to the steamship companies, and experience and patriotism have induced them to exercise thorough medical inspection, a wise discretion regarding those to whom they give passage.

Class Varies Greatly.

Relatively their task is an easy one, since the classes of immigrants brought to **Canada** vary, notably from those to the United States. Thus in 1904-05 146,266 entered **Canada**, of whom 65,399 were British, 37,255 continentals and 43,682 from the United States. Or the British were to the continentals as 65 to 37, while of those coming to the United States the British were as 1 to 8 continentals.

On the assumption that any immigrant otherwise desirable, detained on account of curable disease, is an asset more or less valuable, he is placed in a detention hospital, adequately equipped in every way for his successful treatment. To what extent the practice prevails may be gathered from comparative figures. Thus in 1904-05 2,559 immigrants were detained and treated, making a total of 34,414 days, an average of 14 days each, while at the United States ports 4,828 were detained and treated for 31,068 days, or an average of 6.4 days each. It may be mentioned that the immigration to the United States was nearly eight times that through Canadian seaports.

Will **Canada** be Loyal?

In regard to the gloomy prognostications of the dangers besetting the national character, the morals and even the loyalty to the Crown of the future of the Canadian people, Mr. Bryce said:

None is wise who prophesies regarding the future, but argument from analogy is always permissible. I have examined the figures of the United States census for 1900 for the group of north central States for comparison, and find that, roughly, in the twelve States from Ohio to the Dakotas 26,000,000, or one-third of the population of the United States, is located. Of these 16 per cent. are aliens born, 44 per cent. are the children of aliens, while the balance, 40 per cent., are American.

From this population have gone into the Canadian Northwest 152,000 within the past five years, and have been welcomed as settlers only second to our native-born Canadians. Of these immigrants at least two-thirds, and probably more, are aliens, or their children, and yet there is not infrequently dread expressed lest western **Canada** become Americanized.

Influx From Britain Great.

As a matter of fact there is to-day an estimated population in Manitoba and the Territories of 775,000 Canadians, 120,000 British, 182,000 Americans and 100,000 continentals, or in a total of 1,177,000 less than 25 per cent. are not British and Canadian. In 1905 the British coming into **Canada** increased 15,000, or 30 per cent. over 1904, while the continental increased but 7 per cent., and in the present year the influx of British is greater than ever, having exceeded last year to the end of March by some 5,000. It will readily be understood that with the larger immigration, due to the eyes of the British people having been turned to **Canada** by a systematic emigration propaganda, more persons of capital, of social status and physical goodness than ever are finding their way to **Canada**, and never have I seen amongst the thousands coming on the steamers this year so few of the unfit, whether from disease or poverty.

Prescott F. Hall of Boston, author of immigration treatises, said:—

“The foreign-born population furnishes more than twice its normal proportion of inmates of the penal, insane and charitable institutions of the country, and the alien population furnishes nearly ten times its normal proportion. Foreign whites are once and a half as criminal as the native whites of native parents, and the children of immigrants are three times as criminal as the native element and twice as criminal as the immigrants themselves. In the juvenile offenders the foreign whites are three times as criminal as the native whites of native parentage, and the second generation three and a half times as criminal. The most far-reaching evil of immigration is its effect in diminishing the native birthrate.”