
DEPORTING THE INSANE.

The right of this Province or of the Dominion at large to adopt defensive measures against the mental defectives sent from other countries cannot be questioned. Not only are such persons likely to become a serious public charge which the people of this country are under no obligation to bear, but their presence may be the means of promoting the noticeable and deplorable increase in mental disorders. The Dominion law provides for the deportation of mentally defective foreigners within two years of their arrival, and action under that law has been taken by the Provincial authorities acting under the direction of Mr. S. A. Armstrong, Inspector of Asylums. All who have been deported under the act or are waiting deportation have either arrived in this Province in their present unsound mental condition or have become insane shortly after their arrival. In all cases where their condition is ascertained within the two-year limit the transportation companies which brought them here must bear the expense of taking them back to the countries whence they came. In the case of English immigrants arrangements for their return are made through Lord Strathcona, the Canadian High Commissioner in London.

During the past three months five insane immigrants have been returned to England, two to the United States, and one to Russia, and several are awaiting deportation. The saving to the Province by each deportation is estimated at \$2,000, this being based on the actual cost per year per patient, which in Ontario is \$135, and the statistical evidence that the average life of a patient resident in an asylum is thirteen years. The systematic and vigorous adoption of this policy will avert much loss, annoyance, and danger. The steamship company forced to carry back mental defectives at its own expense will learn caution in the matter of bringing them here. The European authorities who have been in the habit of regarding Canada as a safe place for dumping their incompetents and dependents will learn by somewhat expensive experience that they must support their own human residue. Once it is known that we are determined to deport we will be given but little occasion for the exercise of our authority in that regard. This is a step immediately necessary, and it has not been taken too soon. It may be only a preliminary to a far more strict immigration system devised and carried out in the interests of a high standard of Canadian citizenship.
