

UNDESIRABLES COME HERE

DR. SHEARD, MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER, MAKES STATEMENT.

Russian Jews, Italians and Swedes, Who Became a Charge Upon the Community—They Become Ill After They Pass the Quarantine.

"In my opinion there is a worse thing than a few consumptive immigrants coming to this city," said Dr. Sheard, City Medical Health Officer, to a Globe reporter yesterday, "and that is the large class of **undesirable** immigrants who are flocking in, people who are absolutely destitute when they land in Canada. There are many men with large families arriving, and the wives and families have to depend on the men's hands for their maintenance. They are so abjectly poor that when they come during cold weather they are not able to withstand the rigors of the climate, and many fall prey to pneumonia or some kindred disease. Often this happens to the man, and then there is not only him to care for in the hospital, but his wife and family must be provided for.

Undesirable Immigrants.

"There is a large number of these undesirables coming, how many I do not know. The majority of them are Russian Jews, Italians and Swedes. A number of these immigrants become ill after they have passed the quarantine at the points of debarkation. They are objectionable paupers, but they have to be looked after. These people scatter themselves in boarding-houses and lodging-houses in 'the ward,' and when they are taken ill they have to be given hospital treatment at the expense of the city."

Dr. Sheard did not say how he would keep out the pauper immigrants, but he was emphatic in the belief that such people were far from desirable residents. He said that three of the recent arrivals had been sent to the hospital only last week, and these were suffering from illnesses contracted since their arrival in Canada. He did not think many consumptive immigrants were coming. He pointed out that the law of the Dominion respecting immigration and immigrants provided for dealing with the **undesirable** incomers.

Law on the Question.

The section of the act respecting immigrants being prohibited from landing in Canada states that no immigrant shall be permitted to land who is a pauper, or destitute, a professional beggar or vagrant, or who is likely to become a public charge; and any person landed in Canada who, within two years thereafter, has become a charge on the public funds, whether municipal, Provincial or Federal, or an inmate or a charge upon any charitable institution, may be deported and returned to the port or place whence such immigrant came or sailed for Canada.

"No immigrant shall be permitted to land in Canada who is feeble-minded, idiotic, epileptic, deaf and dumb or dumb, blind or infirm, unless belonging to a family accompanying the afflicted one capable of giving satisfactory security to the Minister for the permanent support of such person.

"No immigrant shall be permitted to land who is afflicted with a loathsome disease or a contagious disease that may become dangerous to the public health, unless the disease is curable within a reasonably short time."

The act makes provision for deporting **undesirable** immigrants at the expense of the transportation companies which bring them to this country.

Inspection Appears Insufficient.

Mr. Thomas Southworth, Director of Colonization and **Immigration**, when spoken to about the matter of undesirables being allowed to land at the Canadian ports, said the system of inspection was far from stringent owing to the large number of arrivals. Two or three doctors stood at the docks and observed the newcomers as they filed past on their way from the vessel. Any suspicious-looking persons were made to stand aside, and later on examined more minutely as to their health. Consumptive people might very easily pass the inspectors, also people suffering from various ailments that did not show very plainly on the outside. Mr. Southworth, however, regarded the system of inspection in this country as fairly good, under the circumstances.

"How about the inspection at the European ports, from which these people come?" he was asked. "Oh, that is something beyond our jurisdiction," he replied. He would not offer any suggestion as to whether the inspection on the part of the British Government should be more strict or not, though he admitted it was a pity so many destitute people were finding their way into the Dominion.