THE FIRST IMMIGRANTS

English-Speaking Races Easiest to Assimilate.

Canada's best immigrants are her English-speaking immigrants. This is incontestable, though far be it from us to disparage the excellent qualities of many of the foreign settlers. We have room in our vast fertile country for millions yet, and if we desire that the land shall have its millions, we may be thankful for the entrance of any immigrants sound in mind and body, who, even in the distant future, promise to make good Canadians or even to become the parents of good Canadians, writes Emily P. Weaver in Canadian Courier.

But in bidding welcome to these foreign thousands no patriotic Canadian wishes to endanger ⁚ ⁚ customs, the habits of thought and the ideals that have made his country what it is. He wishes the Dominion to be and to remain a worthy member of the group of "Anglo-Saxon" nations; and looks towards the building up of one great united Canada, not a mere conglomeration of little Russias, new Scandinavias, and so forth. Immigrants from these countries and, from others may and do contribute richly towards the building, but if it is to be fitly framed together it must have good binding material of some sort and this is surely best to be found in those who belong to our own race; who speak our own tongue; who read the same books as we read; who have been nursed in the same glorious traditions; who, whatever may the failures in practice, cherish the same noble ideals of liberty and good government. It goes without saying that these, the kith and kin of her people, must be Canada's best immigrants, the only class in fact that she cannot do without, if she is to receive with safety the thousands of foreigners who annually enter her gates. Differences of language, race and education (or the lack of it) add to our social and political problems with every fresh party of foreigners, but the English-speaking folk strengthen the hands of the "native-born," and aid in the happy assimilation country almost at an end, have crossed the boundary and are now engaged with all their might in the congenial occupation of "boosting" new towns in Canada and, incidentally, of hurrying forward improvements, which the older, stabler inhabitants might have regarded as out of their reach for many a long day. As one travels westward the British immigrants seem more and more in evidence, and the stories of many a stalwart Scot and sturdy Englishman — of good wives and fresh-looking girls, as well as men—would make a pleasant chapter in the history of this land of opportunities. For instance, I met one woman, who in her young days had worked in a Manchester factory, making "babies' velvet dresses at thirteen pence halfpenny a dozen," and "find you can thread." Now she and her husband are buying a lot in Vancouver, so that they may have a home of their own, and yet they venture to spend liberally on good violin lessons for their musical children.

I met with other women, who are in much improved circumstances through their enterprise in coming to Canada. As for the other sex, Britons are setting their mark on the country in a thousand ways; and, as business men, engineers, "sky pilots," farmers, they have opportunities for growth and work and stirring life, possible only to a very privileged few in the Old Country.