

What to Do With Foreign Immigration

The Social Science Club drew a fair audience to the Margaret Eaton School yesterday to listen to earnest and practical words from Mr. J. E. Woodsworth of Winnipeg on the burning question of foreign immigration, and what to do with the foreigners. The vast sweep of emigration from southern Europe developed first in the United States, then western Canada opened its doors, and the lecturer thought that new trades would develop enormously if the foreign element was taken care of by Canada. But the people encouraged to leave their homes and traverse the seas have no proper schools, no amusements, no churches, and yet they have votes!

He would have every child compulsorily taught English and French from earliest years. Even now they take the highest places in schools and universities. Icelanders (a Rhodes scholar amongst them), Hebrews, Russians, Germans, have all done well in literature. The intense love of their own country is shown by the bringing of some of their mother earth to put in their graves, and to make patriotic citizens in new homes should be the first object of the powers that be. As it is, they do not often find encouragement to be such. The enormous rents stagger the foreigner, hence the overcrowding too common here. The disuse of their pretty hand-embroidered garments, so ordinary in their own homes, the swaggering manner of the young people—all lead to the coarsening of the young foreign girl. The Juvenile Courts are crowded with foreign children who have broken away from their own home life, look on the parents as stupid, and have not taken in the best of Canadian life.

Altogether, the speaker said, an immense problem faces the country if the foreign population sweeps over the west in increasing numbers.