

## MAKING THEM CANADIAN

For the first time in many years this country is free from the absorbing demands made by the entrance of hundreds of thousands of immigrants yearly. Now is the time to establish adequate machinery for dealing intelligently and efficiently with immigrants who are already here and who will arrive after the war. These sentences are from the report of an American committee on immigration but they apply equally well to the situation in Canada.

The immigration question is closely related to the problem of unemployment, and the one cannot be settled without facing the other. The newcomer finds a social structure of which he has little conception. He is likely to be stunned by our great distances, our extensive railway systems and our feverish industrial life. Believing that he comes to a land of equality, he soon discovers that he starts with many hardships and is waylaid by many pitfalls. On landing he may fall into the hands of hard-hearted employment agencies or exploiters of some other character. The Canadian Government

pays more attention to his welfare than the United States Government, especially if he is going on the land, but his best safeguard is to be taken in hand on arrival by some compatriot who knows the ropes.

Heretofore we have taken little account of the immigrant laborers' qualifications or efficiency. They all go into the caldron of common labor. From this many never escape and there follow maladjustments in employment, leading to labor difficulties; inadequate distribution resulting in congestion, segregation in racial groups, and colonies; restlessness and dissatisfaction, ending in legal complications. We do not assist the new comer to husband his earnings, and there have been too many cases of railway navvies and other unskilled workers who were robbed of their wages through overcharges for food, lodging, clothing and other necessities.

The greatest factor in the fusion of races is education. Immigrant children below the age of fourteen years receive the customary training in the public schools, if they do not evade the truant officer. The real problem, however, arises with aliens over fourteen years of age, to whom the compulsory education laws do not apply. Too many remain illiterate all their days. Their ignorance of English makes it difficult to convert them into Canadians. Here, therefore, we have a grave problem calling for solution. After and even during the war means should be taken for the Canadianization of the extensive and growing alien element in our population.