

THE IMMIGRATION AFTER THE WAR.

The opinion is practically unanimous among British economic students that there will be a large emigration to the overseas dominions at the close of the war. In the current Nineteenth Century, Sir Clement Kinlock-Cooke, M.P., has an article on the subject which carries conviction.

Not only will the men wish for a freer atmosphere than is possible in the Homeland, he writes, they will desire to avoid the fall in wages that must inevitably come with the cessation of hostilities, they will desire to escape the burden of the heavy taxation which awaits this country no matter how complete the victory may be. And if a further incentive to emigration is wanted, it will be found in the Imperial character of the war itself. The higher pay our oversea kinsmen are receiving for their services in the field is not likely to be lost upon the private soldier hailing from the British Isles. Countries that pay their soldiers so liberally may also be expected to pay men in civil employment on a similar scale. Then the openings on the land in the dominions are practically unlimited.

Incidentally, this furnishes an interesting bit of comment on the effort that is being made by some Canadian newspapers to work up feeling against the Dominion government because it doesn't pay its soldiers more and leaves it to the Patriotic Fund to supplement the allowances to dependents. Judging by every standard of comparison, the government has been most generous, too generous in the view of seasoned authorities on war finance in the older countries.

It would be a misfortune if this high rate of pay should attract those to this country for whom we have no need. Sir Clement's statement that the openings on the land here are practically unlimited is apt to be misunderstood. The openings are here for the right kind of men, but it is very necessary that it should be made clear what qualities are required for success and that those who do not possess these, and after a few weeks and months will drift into the towns looking for other work, should not be encouraged to come.

We may accept the prospective immigration as a fact, and having done so, it is for Canada to see to it that it is handled more according to common-sense methods than has been the case in the past.

We cannot look forward with any satisfaction to mere increase in population, which may be a source of weakness rather than strength. What we want is a growth in numbers that will result in the upbuilding of the country along sound lines. The era ahead of us will call for more real statesmanship than any other in our history.