

# N "MELTING POT" OF YOUNG CANADA

## Human Scenes at Night Class of Immigrants

### TRAINING NEW CITIZENS

**Mother and Daughters Study Together  
at Hester Hall—Child From War-  
saw's War Scenes—One Pupil With  
Long Whiskers.**

A chapter in the lives of some coming Canadians closed last night. It was uneventful enough as things go, the closing of the night classes for foreigners at the Hester Hall, Elizabeth street. Yet for about a hundred people, ranging in age from fourteen to fifty-five, ranging in map measurement from Cranada in Spain to near the Ural Mountains in Russia, in climate from the icy Northern Ontario winter of Finland to the balmy fruit belt airs of southern Italy, and in intelligence nearly as widely, a step toward the acquisition of fuller citizenship is not a thing to be despised. For the school does more than teach these boys and girls and men and women the English language. It inculcates a knowledge of Canada and the vaster Empire to which they learn the allegiance of love and reverence for its institutions. In one class last evening The Globe reporter heard "God, Save the King" sung by a gathering of eleven, which numbered nine nationalities. The Chinese laundryman rubbed educational shoulders with a Russian in the khaki of the Queen's Own Regiment, a man who had enlisted in the 84th Battallon, but had failed to go overseas because he could not understand the military orders. Now he is making that up rapidly, in a double sense learning to serve.

#### Girl From Warsaw's War Scenes.

But more interesting than all was a young and engaging Polish girl of Jewish faith, who had only reached Toronto last Christmas from Warsaw. Their home had been pierced by shrapnel as the Germans bombarded the place for two days before their rather empty triumphal entry. She already speaks good English for the time, and could say that she was glad to be in safety.

A map of Canada in outline on a wall showed the ports and main railways. Pupils are encouraged to ask about the route by which they came in. On one of the blackboards last evening, the class was informed, down to the last minute, so to speak, that "this is the season called spring."

#### Greeting New Sprindtide.

The instruction would have delighted Mr. Squeers. His classic case of teaching the spelling of "W-i-n-d-e-r, window, now go and clean 'em" was improved upon, for at this point came the interruption to "spell 'spring.'" "It is the time when every body (two words) is happy and people make maple syrup, from the maple tree," which, save the mark, was called "the emblem of Ontario."

Another class was busy finding out the intricacies of the "tongue that Shakespeare spake," if not the morals Milton held with such little pesky pesterings as "all" and "awl," and the psychology which underlies the differentiation between "ball" and "bawl." Then, too, there was the verb "to bear," and the adjective "bare," and one thought of poor Dan Leno with his horse doctor cure at the North Pole for the "little Polar bear who had caught cold while running after it with bare feet." Thanks to Regulation 17, even these things can be mastered in a few weeks.

#### Some of the "Pupils."

The year before the war there had been 750 pupils in these classes. This year the number is scarcely one hundred, owing to the drop in immigration. Attendance is fair. The amount of overtime worked in the garment factories, good times for trade was bad for school, and made it irregular. Many of the pupils go straight from work without supper. In one class there are two girls whose mother plods along with our noble Anglo-Saxon two grades lower down.

The best "kid" in one class was a patriarch with a venerable length of Abrahamic whiskers. To-night those who have made eighty per cent. of the attendance, about one-half the number this year, will go to the school for their money back. They deposit a dollar at the beginning of the session. Mr. W. H. Harwood is in charge of the school and he makes a great feature of interesting the new-comers in Canadian story from every angle. Trustee C. A. B. Brown also paid a visit of interested inspection. For the next six months these foreigners have to depend on their own efforts for learning, and it is possibly the only weak spot in an excellent thing.