

BREATHING SPACE WHAT IS NEEDED

Not Permanent Policy of Excluding Foreigners, Says Dr. Cowan

(Staff Correspondence of The Globe.)
Ottawa, May 1. — Speaking to The Globe last night, Dr. W. D. Cowan, member for Regina, stated that what Canada really needs is not a permanent policy of excluding foreigners, but a breathing space during which it can assimilate those it has in Canada already. He said that when he went to Regina thirty years ago the Germans and Austrians living there then were anxious to learn English and become Canadian as quickly as possible. It was only when they began to come in enormous numbers and were allowed to settle in great districts by themselves that problems began to arise. Saskatchewan's educational policy had been at fault for many years in that the Education Act only stated that a school would be built in any locality as soon as the locality asked for it. Now the Province will build the school in any case, and see that the children attend school where possible.

How Regina Has Succeeded.

Dr. Cowan claimed that so far as Regina is concerned the problem of assimilating the foreign element has been solved. The largest public school in Canada has been built, at a cost of \$240,000, for the foreign children, and a truant officer sees that the children attend, and parents are called before the Magistrate if their children do not go. There is a "bath" parade every day, and absolute cleanliness and a high standard of conduct is insisted on. The results are astonishing. The school is up-to-date in every particular. It is the problem of taking the same influences into the rural parts on which educationists are now working.

No Disorder Where Police Were.

Dr. Cowan said that Commissioner Perry had told him that there had not been the slightest disorder during the war among the foreign population wherever the Royal Northwest Mounted Police had been. There had been neither riots resulting from any feeling against foreigners, nor on the part of foreigners against Canadians.

Condemns Contemptuous Terms.

Dr. Cowan believes that those who speak in the House or elsewhere of the "foreigners" as "cattle" do tremendous harm, because the "foreigners" read the news and resent the contemptuous terms applied to them. The terms were entirely inappropriate, and many naturalized citizens will believe the term applied to them, because they have been called "foreigners" so long that they have come to accept the term.