

## CANADIAN MIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

The present movement of population from one part of **Canada** to another is great beyond precedent, and so is the influx of population from abroad. The objective point of both movements is the fertile area of the Northwest. Toward it tend the streams of immigration from the United States and from across the Atlantic, and also the westward stream of migration from the eastern Provinces. Whatever one may think of the vast changes now going on, the facts are apparent and indisputable. One result will be a rapid increase in the population of the Prairie Provinces; another will be the partial depletion of many localities in Ontario.

So far as the influx of population from outside the Dominion is concerned there is cause only for satisfaction, provided always that the immigrants are of the right sort. Those coming from the United States are generally acceptable. They come chiefly from the Western States, and they bring with them not merely a knowledge of agricultural devices and processes, but also the political aptitude due to living in an institutional environment. Those coming from Great Britain are also acceptable, though they have much more to learn about agriculture in order to be able to make a living. The immigrants from Europe are less desirable, and the Canadian Government has acted wisely in resolving to hold out fewer inducements to those who send them over to **Canada**.

The migration of people from Ontario to the Northwest has created a great scarcity of labor, which is only partially met by the importation of working men from Great Britain and the Continent of Europe. This has caused a considerable change in agricultural methods, many having turned formerly cultivated farms into pasture and given their attention to the raising of live stock. It has greatly altered the educational situation also by lessening the number of children in many localities. In places innumerable there are rural schools with only a few small classes of pupils instead of the large attendance of a quarter of a century ago. As the people who leave for the Northwest are generally vigorous and enterprising, it is obvious that the standard of the remnant left behind must be, in respect of these qualities, somewhat lowered.

There are, of course, compensations. One of these is the belief that Ontario's loss will be the Northwest's gain. Without the infusion of a strong Canadian element the task of keeping that new country Canadian would be one of extreme difficulty and great risk. As it is, the people who migrate from the eastern to the Prairie Provinces exercise a dominating influence in the establishment and operation of social and political institutions. Municipal self-government has been habitual to them all their lives. They have been accustomed to schools and churches. They understand the nature and appreciate the value of courts of law. They are familiar with the working of both representative and responsible government. The whole country, with the exception of localities inhabited exclusively by Europeans, takes its institutional complexion from Ontario, and the less these **foreigners** are encouraged, or even allowed, to segregate themselves the better for the whole community.