

# NO UNDESIRABLES ARE WANTED HERE.

## Strong Resolutions Protesting Against Importation.

### QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY.

#### Canon Welch Says Tersely What Canada Requires.

**Mass Meeting of Representatives of the Various Charitable Organizations in the City Make Suggestions to the Dominion and Provincial Governments — Text of the Resolutions.**

Over 28 per cent. of the immigrants who had registered at the British Welcome League offices since March were penniless, and nearly 50 per cent. were on the border line. The St. George's Society during the past year had rendered assistance in 681 cases, and had sent nine to the hospital.

Over 200 recent arrivals in Canada had applied to the office of the Associated Charities, a large percentage of whom were without adequate means of support. At the city relief office 216 new arrivals had sought assistance since the beginning of the year, and some of these were immigrants suffering from consumption.

These were among the significant facts elicited from some of the various benevolent associations and charities represented at a meeting of citizens held in the St. George's Hall last night to consider the immigration problem, and the feeling that some steps should be taken to check the influx of undesirables found expression in a series of resolutions and speeches. The prevailing sentiment seemed to be voiced by Canon Welch, when he stated that "quality, not quantity," was what Canada needed, and the other speakers echoed the refrain with variations.

Though there was some criticism of the methods adopted, it was pointed out that the resolutions were not intended to reflect upon the immigration officials, and Mr. H. M. Mowat, K.C., uttered a note of warning against creating the impression that Canada was unfriendly to British immigrants.

#### To Keep Out Undesirables.

The resolutions, which were all adopted, were as follows:—

That the Dominion Government be memorialized to put into effect stringent measures to prevent the influx into Canada, either direct from the old land and other countries or through the United States, of mentally and physically diseased and otherwise undesirable immigrants.

That the Dominion Government be requested to adopt a more expeditious method than at present exists of deporting undesirable immigrants, or to provide some means for caring for them in the meantime, so that whilst they remain in the country they may not be a charge on the benevolent societies.

That the Dominion and Ontario Governments be requested to take steps by inquiry and otherwise to ascertain the class or classes of immigrants most suited to the needs of the country, and to adopt such regulations as will ensure such class or classes being forwarded to Canada.

That the Provincial Government be requested to establish a Labor Bureau in Toronto, where all new arrivals may obtain free information where suitable employment can be obtained, and that the same facilities of transportation be afforded them as is now afforded agricultural laborers.

That the Dominion and Ontario Governments be asked to make adequate provision for housing on their arrival in Canada immigrants who now become charges on the benevolent societies till they obtain employment.

The chair was occupied by Hon. Thomas Crawford.

#### Experiences of Societies.

Mr. Samuel Arnold, General Secretary of the Associated Charities, was the first speaker, and he submitted statements from the various societies and institutions, showing how these had been affected by undesirable immigrants. A manager of the St. Andrew's Society, asked to what extent that organization had been affected, replied: "Not at all." The Society of St. Vincent de Paul reported that it had had its full share of the difficulty and embarrassments arising from the constant arrival in the city of many people totally unprovided with money to maintain them. The Irish Protestant Benevolent Society stated that they had not been materially affected by the recent arrivals. The St. George's Society had assisted from the 13th of November, 1906, to the 13th of November, 1907, the following number: Clerks, 101 times; artisans, laborers, etc., 580 times. Total, 681 times. Of these 92 were married, nine were sent to the hospital, and there were seven funerals. All the above were in Canada under twelve months.

The Associated Charities reported that the number applying for work or counsel at the office of the Associated Charities during the past twelve months was 300. Over 200 of these were recent arrivals in Canada, and quite a large percentage of them were without ade-

quate means to keep them until their first wages were earned.

#### Consumptives Among Arrivals.

The new arrivals applying for help at the City Hall were since January 216, and 44 had received hospital treatment, some of them being cases of consumption, all under three months in the country, and some only a few days. Out of 180 families aided by the House of Industry 50 were immigrants between the months of April and November, and had an average of three children to each family, or 250 persons in all.

The report of the British Welcome League from its inception in March showed that the total number of people registered had been 5,293. Of that number 606 men arrived without money, 337 men had less than \$2 each, 305 men had less than \$5 each; 185 married couples, with 353 children, arrived without money; 348 married couples, with 865 children, arrived with less than \$5 per family, thus showing over 28 per cent. penniless, and nearly 50 per cent. just on the border line.

#### Quality, Not Quantity, Needed.

Canon Welch, in moving the first resolution, said he should like to add to the words "mental and physical disease" the words "morally unfit." They all knew that there was immense need of immigration in Canada, but it was just as true that what the country wanted was not only quantity, but quality. He came in contact with a good many immigrants, and he was bound to say that sometimes he was very much discouraged. It had been his experience to come in contact with men belonging to all three classes, namely, the mentally, physically and morally unfit. One young man who came out last spring was now in an asylum, and another was suffering from consumption. He objected to people in the old country dumping down in Canada men they were ashamed to keep at home. He thought it was a very great hardship and scandal that that should be done.

God forbid that they should prevent any penitent young man from getting a new chance in a new country, but he did think that the friends and relatives of such men as he had referred to ought to take care that there was something definite in the way of employment for them to come to. It was a matter for complaint that a good deal of information that was spread in the old country about Canada was not sufficiently accurate, and he protested against Police Magistrates in the old country urging indiscriminate emigration.

Ald. Geary suggested that the needy immigrants should be provided by the Government with funds with which to commence life in Canada.

#### A Heartrending Sight.

J. N. McKendry, President of the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society, said it made his heart ache to see some of the poor specimens of humanity who came out, young fellows, some of them of twenty and twenty-three, with wives but without a dollar in their pockets. Most of the undesirable class of immigrants were induced to come out by the advertising of the steamship companies, who wanted to make a pound or two out of them.

Mr. A. Chamberlain of the British Welcome League thought there should be some provision by the Government for looking after the physically unfit immigrants who arrived.

#### Cause of the Trouble

Mr. Rufus Hudson, Vice-President of the St. George's Society, regarded the booking agents in the old country who got \$5 for each emigrant as the cause of the trouble.

Dr. Pepler did not think that the figures given covered anything like the number of incapacitated men who came to Canada. The medical examination, he considered, was not strict enough.

Mr. C. W. Mogridge said there were many men in Toronto who lived by fleecing immigrants.

#### Warning Against Haste.

Mr. H. M. Mowat, K.C., urged the meeting not to go too fast. The grievances were not so great as they had been led to suppose, and it would be a pity if the resolutions were interpreted as reflecting on the immigration officials or as a disparagement of immigrants from the old country.

Dr. Hodgett described the medical examination of immigrants as at present carried out as farcical. The medical examination, he maintained, should take place on the other side of the water.

Brigadier Howell of the Salvation Army thought something should be done to protect immigrants from being ill-treated by farmers. There were farmers in Canada to whom he would not send a dog.