

# NATIONAL ELEMENTS IN THE NEW IMMIGRATION.

**The West Finds Plenty  
of Room for Home-  
seekers.**

**BUT THE DRONE  
IS NOT WANTED.**

**Picking and Choosing is  
Part of the Present  
Programme.**

**Producers and Workers Are in De-  
mand—Easy to Misunderstand the  
British Immigrant—Place of the  
Foreigner in the Commercial Sys-  
tem—Race is to the Swift and the  
Battle to the Strong.**

(Staff Correspondence of The Globe.)

Winnipeg, April 5.—The volume of immigration into the Prairie Provinces indicates that that portion of the Dominion has come into its own at last. Population has always been the great essential in the west, and the wants of the country in that respect are being supplied at a faster rate than most Canadians realize. Mere numbers are not sufficient to satisfy the need which has been experienced ever since this country was first regarded as fit for human habitation. The quality of the immigration is a most important factor. In the old days there was a fairly heavy influx into Manitoba and portions of what was then known as the Territories. The numbers were not large, in comparison with the invasions of the present time, but they were looked upon as encouraging. The newcomers were welcomed, because every addition to the productive element meant the nearer approach of the day when the country could maintain itself. The difficulty at that stage was that all the arrivals were not of the right type. The country was used as a dumping-ground by families in the old land who desired to rid themselves of inconvenient company; and the effects of that "immigration" are still felt. Nor was the dumping confined to the old land. There were "ne'er-do-wells" in older Canada who drifted westward because they found it uncomfortable to remain in the east. In fact, it was thought to be the proper thing to shift the ragged remnant of the population to the prairie country, where it could be lost or absorbed. The sterling settlers who came west long ago felt the incubus of the parasitic element, and they wondered whether the time would ever come when it would be swamped in the onward march of trade. They realize now, with the keenest satisfaction, that the country has lived down the effects of that undesirable immigration, and has reached a stage where it can afford to pick and choose.

**Picking and Choosing.**

The picking and choosing is the feature of the present-day movement, and it is in this connection that the value of the newcomers is to be estimated. In the 'eighties and 'nineties there was no chance to be particular. All those who came were supposed to make the most of their opportunities, but there were plenty of shirkers. Under the arrangements which are now being carried out with such good effect a man is required to give some indication of a desire to share in the upbuilding of the country. If he has not that desire he is discouraged from coming, or if he comes he finds that there is no place for him. Producers and workers are wanted. The sloths and the drones do well not to emigrate. And this applies to all parts of the world where emigration is a factor in the life of a country.

**Four Groups of Immigrants.**

Hon. Frank Oliver, in his address at Toronto a short time ago, reviewed the work of the Department of the Interior, over which he presides, and paid particular attention to immigration. He explained that the new arrivals in the west might be grouped under four headings, according to the place of origin. Those from eastern Canada would be in one, those from the United Kingdom in another, those from the United States in a third, and those from continental Europe. Approximately the proportion of each would be the same for a period of years. It would be difficult to indicate the special value of each of these groups from the western standpoint, and Mr. Oliver did not, of course, discuss that phase of the situation. But each element has an important place in the community. The easterner is so well acquainted with Canadian conditions and habits of living that he is readily absorbed. All that is needed is time for him to accustom himself to the western climate and the slightly different ways of carrying on business. The American is not in the same position. He is posted on the climate, and on western business methods, but he lacks a knowledge of Canadian conditions. He needs only time in which to gain this knowledge of contrasts. After that he is as readily absorbed as is the man from Ontario or the Maritime Provinces.

**The British Immigrant.**

The old countryman has even more difficulties than the others. He is a stranger to the climate, to the geography, to Canadian conditions, to western conditions, and, in fact, to the main features of prairie life. He has the language and a general knowledge of what it means to live under responsible government, but beyond that practically everything is new. This newness and strangeness has been responsible for much misunderstanding on the part of the people

(Continued on Page 7.)

# NATIONAL ELEMENTS IN NEW IMMIGRATION.

Continued From Page 1.)

among whom the old country immigrant has cast his lot, and it has been the cause of many mistakes. It should not be expected that a man coming direct from the British Isles could adapt himself at once to changed conditions, although some Canadians seem to entertain such an idea. The real value of immigrants from the mother country is not to be determined on a hasty acquaintance. Some of them may find it necessary to study the country and its people for years before they can fit themselves to understand the ways of the inhabitants. But throughout the consideration of British immigration it is well to bear in mind the fact that the colonizing spirit is developed to a larger and better degree in the old countryman than in any other representative of the outside world. The Englishman, the Irishman, the Scotchman, and the Welshman, inspire an emigration movement with the elements which ensure its success, and it will be a sorry day for **Canada** when the movement from the United Kingdom ceases.

## The Foreigner's Handicaps.

The troubles which beset a newcomer from an English-speaking country are slight enough when the hardships endured by pioneers in ages past are taken into account. But the case of the foreigner is more serious. He is handicapped by inability to speak the language or understand any of the conditions. It has grown to be a practice to criticize and denounce some of the elements which have been drawn into the Dominion by the immigration rush, and the arrivals from southern and central Europe have been the chief objects of attack in and out of Parliament. It might be safe to consider the immigration from foreign, as distinguished from English-speaking, nations in all its bearings. Let due attention be paid to the fact that many foreign immigrants are ignorant and uncouth, and perhaps dirty, and their diet is nauseating to the ordinary Canadian, and that their mode of life, especially in the cities, is objectionable. But all those faults can be overcome in time, and there is a fair prospect that with the influences which are at work the remedies will be quickly and effectually applied. And there is the other side of the picture. If the foreign population of the west, from the Japanese and Chinese at the Pacific coast to the Italians and Greeks at Port Arthur, were to be removed suddenly, the whole commercial system of this part of the Dominion would be wrecked. The reason is that the supply of labor would be hopelessly short of the demand. The situation is bad enough now, with hundreds of thousands of **foreigners** in the country. It would be a hundred times worse if it were found that there were no **foreigners** on whom to fall back. The men who were attacked so bitterly by academic dreamers are the ones who do the rough work out here, and there is a great deal of rough work in opening up a country larger than the half of Europe. The west demands, and needs, the foreigner. It will never do its whole duty towards him until it educates him and refines him, but that is another question. The main point is that it needs him.

## Let Them All Come.

There is a place, a wide place, in the west for each of the classes mentioned by the Minister of the Interior. "Let them all come," is the invitation of the western people, who have no fear of their utility to assimilate all the new population. The experiences of the past and the tendencies of the present make it unlikely that many weak members will be drawn into the commercial struggle here. There will always be an odd few who cannot fit in, but the race will be to the swift and the battle to the strong. The picking and choosing which forms part of the programme at the various ports of entry will be supplemented by a sterner trial when the immigrant reaches his destination. If he is worth having, he will easily make good, and his beneficial influence on the life of the country will soon be noticed.

A. E. B.