

as possible; provides papers, magazines, gramophones, games, etc.; places a student from some one of our universities in charge of each camp; teaches the foreigner to speak, read, and write our language—in a word, tries to surround the frontiersman with a few of the advantages of civilized life and fill his empty hours with wholesome entertainment and useful elementary instruction. The success of the work so far justifies the insight and judgment of its founder, Mr. Alfred Fitzpatrick, and should commend the work to every public-spirited citizen of **Canada**.

Especially to the comfortable inhabitants of cities should this work appeal; \$2,753,590, or about one-third of the revenue of Ontario, is drawn from the woods, the forests, and the mines. The frontiersmen do the hard work of exploiting this wealth, but next to nothing of the revenue drawn from their work is spent upon their comfort or education. We spend \$137,894 out of the Provincial revenue in providing educational facilities for the citizens of Toronto, and only a little over \$500 for the army of men working on our frontier. The dwellers in cities get more than their share, and in justice ought to be generous towards those agencies which seek to carry some of the advantages of civilization to the man at the front.

EDUCATE THE FOREIGNER.

The twofold problem of **Canada** to-day, from the point of view of citizenship, is the maintenance of its moral standards and the assimilation of its new people. Of all the mental diseases that afflict a young nation none is more dangerous in its consequences than the craze for population. It seems to be as contagious as small-pox or scarlet fever. One city raises the slogan, "So many people in 1915," and immediately all other aspiring cities take up the cry. But in the last analysis the craze for numbers is a mere delusion. A mass of unassimilated, uneducated, unmoralized people, exploited by a few masterful captains of industry, do not make a nation. However democratic the form of such a people's government may be, in reality it is a government by interests. Government can never be democratic in reality until the people have arrived at self-consciousness through education and social assimilation, and the chief problem of **Canada** to-day, from the point of view of citizenship, is not to fill up its vacant places, but to assimilate and educate its ever-increasing army of immigrants.

Among the voluntary agencies for this work of education and assimilation none is more interesting than the Reading Camp Association, whose tenth annual report has just come to hand. Naturally the two points where the poor, uneducated foreigner comes most into contact with our civilization is in the slums of the larger cities, and in the mining, lumber, and railroad construction camps on the frontier. In the cities the public school reaches the children of the foreigner, and through the child assimilates to a greater or less degree the parents. But no such agency exists on the frontier. The adult there must be dealt with directly or not be reached at all. There are approximately 350,000 men, mostly **foreigners**, working in the frontier camps of **Canada**, and the State makes no effort whatsoever to teach these men our language, our history, our political ideals, or the working of our institutions. For various reasons, denominational and otherwise, the churches can do little for them. Until recent years no one seemed to care much either for the body or soul of the frontiersman. His labor-power was exploited to the uttermost by the contractor, he was preyed on by the liquor seller, he was duped by those who sold him his supplies, but no effort was made to instruct him or protect him or make him a sober, decent, intelligent citizen.

The Reading Camp Association is an attempt to meet the needs of this class of men. It has been in operation for ten years, and every year its workers feel increasing confidence in the worth and practicability of its mission. It supplies reading tents or camps or cars, according to circumstances; furnishes these as tastefully