

A LITERARY TEST FOR IMMIGRANTS NOT NEEDED HERE

U. S. Official Says Canada Needs All Classes Without Education.

"I wouldn't give a continental for the man who would deny to others those rights that he exacts for himself. I would say let every man, woman and child into the country as long as they are sound of body and mind. The immigrants are giving the best within themselves to the service of the nation. Canada can ill afford to lose them whether they can read or not."

These were among the concluding words of Martin J. Gorman, of the American Immigration Department, speaking on the question of whether illiterates should be excluded from Canada, at a meeting of St. Patrick's A. A. A. Literary and Debating Society yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Gorman began by showing that the Scandinavian countries were most illiterate. Scotland, England and Ireland came next, with Hebrews close behind. The people from the south of Italy were the most illiterate, with 56 per cent. of those coming over here unable to read and write.

All Know How To Make Money.

Without exception the immigrants, whether able to read and write or not, were making wealth for the country, and developing the industries besides making an honest livelihood for themselves. Even the Italians from the sunny south of Italy had in the years 1907-1908 sent out \$214,000,000 from the United States to relatives at home.

"It is a well known fact that those who have not an education are the most anxious people in the world to see that their children are well provided for this way," went on Mr. Gorman, dealing with the argument that illiterates lowered the national educational standards. In this connection, he instanced the Hebrews in New York where in the training school for teachers 90 per cent. of the pupils are girls.

Canada Has Need of Them.

In the United States an attempt had been made to impose a standard of literacy in immigrants only to meet with a stern veto from President Taft. Canada needed the immigrants and could not afford to restrict them. They were hardly building up railroads and industries with an endurance that the ordinary Canadian could not show. For every dollar they took out of the country they added two to its wealth and resources.

Mr. Gorman's address was preceded by a debate in which Lloyd Walker, E. W. Kirk, R. N. Gay, and C. G. Curran took part, Frank Carman, K.C., A. J. Campbell, and J. F. S. Graham also spoke, while L. I. McMahon presided.