

Immigration to Canada

Immigration to Canada has fallen from 402,432 in 1912-13 to 144,789 in 1914-15. We have come back to the figures of the first few years of the century. In 1897 the **immigration** was only 21,716. It was not until the twentieth century that there was any considerable **immigration** to this country, then the figures continued to grow almost steadily until 1912-13, when high water mark was reached. In the last fifteen years we have received more than three million newcomers, of whom more than a million came from the British Islands and more than a million from the United States.

What will the next fifteen years show. For some time, certainly till the close of the war, the volume will not be great. Then we may expect another period of expansion.

In some respects there may be an improvement in methods. It is not surprising that in the glow of enthusiasm resulting from the tremendous growth which began some fifteen years ago too little discrimination was shown. The rich farming lands of the West had gone begging for many years, even after the Canadian Pacific Railway was finished. Then **immigration** came with a bound. Large areas of land were settled, the production of grain increased rapidly, and the cities and towns of the West showed marvelous growth.

On the whole, the country was greatly benefited, but it is probably true that many immigrants came with false expectations, and were disappointed. The false expectations were not altogether due to the zeal of **immigration** agents. In old countries there is an illusion about new countries. There is a vague notion that crossing the sea will produce a magical change in the fortunes of the emigrant.

For this hope there is a basis of truth. There are vast opportunities in Canada, but they cannot be made to yield results by haphazard methods. The occupation and experience of the newcomer must be considered. There should be a definite plan, a definite idea as to what the newcomer will do when he arrives. It is not too early to begin to map out an **immigration** policy in preparation for the hosts who may come to Canada after the war.