

It is stated that the leaders of the strike in Winnipeg are English-speaking men, or we should say British or Canadian born. A certainty is that a large part of these who are behind them are aliens. Extremists who come to the front in labor trouble are naturally men who possess more than average intelligence—of a kind—and courage. It is always likely, therefore, that in industrial trouble in this country, English-speaking men will be found possessing leadership among revolutionists. A Scotch radical is said to be the most dangerous kind of radical, although moderation and common sense are distinguishing characteristics of a majority of Scotchmen. But while the general strike in Winnipeg may be directed by English-speaking leaders, no doubt exists that its methods are influenced by alien ideas, and backed by a large alien following. How could it be otherwise? We in Canada have allowed the ignorant labor of the continent of Europe to flood into our country as it pleased, under the complacent idea that such immigrants will be at once converted here into appreciative citizens, and with the idea that they chiefly aim to take up land and become productive in the best possible way. But as a matter of fact the immigrants who take up land are largely British and American immigrants. The continental Europeans, outside of such bodies as the Mennonites, favor chiefly the cities, and industrial centres, where they exercise a large influence in industrial unions; and as they care nothing for Canada, except as a place to make a living in, they have no more regard than they can help for Canadian law or Canadian fair play.

For instance, take Manitoba, in the light of the present strike in Winnipeg. According to the recent Dominion Registration statistics, there are in Manitoba 170,253 men over 16 years of age. Of these, 110,000 are British or Canadian born, while 29,055 are naturalised immigrants, and 38,805 are classified as aliens—not even naturalised. Thus altogether 68,000 of the full-grown men of Manitoba, or nearly two-fifths of the whole, are not of British stock. And assuredly most of this large outside element is in the cities, and is represented by industrial workers.

A moral certainly seems to exist for Canada, accentuated by many things both during the war and since, to limit the sort of immigration which this country permits.