

48 shots

430-0712-130

Reference

M.A.

WRIGHT, H.E.

~~The~~ Immigration and <sup>The</sup> Cultural Development of Canada

Thesis for M. A. Sociology

presented by H. E. Wright, B.A.

January 1931

## THE IMMIGRATION AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF CANADA

There is a landscape which many times has been viewed but the country beyond which is as yet, largely an unexplored area, and that is the relation between Immigration and the cultural development of our beloved dominion, Canada. Until recently, perhaps, it has been most difficult, if not well-nigh impossible to penetrate the interior, hence accordingly those who have had their interest aroused, (always the adventurous and courageous spirits) have been forced to content themselves with a discoverer's survey of the fringe of this vast and wealthy bound. A scan of the horizon with a keen and whetted appetite for a knowledge of what is beyond has unfortunately, until recently, had to suffice. But nowadays, thanks to various means, publicity, an awakened intelligence (or should one say an "awakening" for the intelligence is still drowsy and hardly as alert as when wide-awake, among altogether too many of our people) among citizens in general, and notably the Canadian Pacific Railway whose device (by device we mean in the heraldic sense) we shall discuss, it is becoming increasingly easy and moreover desirable, if not interesting and important in the name of Canada and Canadian society, to embark on an exploration trip -- a careful investigation and search -- into the heart of this great hitherto uncharted territory.

Before ascertaining how the Canadian Pacific Railway has made possible the means of awakening the sleeping multitudes as to this desirable and important voyage of research, one might profitably pause to consider just what there is to prompt him to engage in a mission of this nature, now that the means are available and even inviting his effort. If the inquirer be cautious and if he give evidence of patriotic concern, he will, among many other things, soon find (and perhaps be startled to find) that:

1. Practically one half of the population of the prairie provinces has come within the present generation from continental Europe.<sup>1</sup>

2. The Ukrainians, noted for settlements by themselves in various parts of the west, now number approximately five hundred thousand (500,000); are now the second largest racial group in the West and the third largest in the Dominion.<sup>2</sup>

3. Canada's "foreign" population is two million (2,000,000), the larger groups being Germans, Ukrainians, Finns, Bulgarians, Italians, French, Orientals (Japanese, Chinese and some East Indians). The Indian population is 104,894 while the entire population of Canada as given in 1926 (there was a census that year in the Prairie Provinces) is 9,389,300.<sup>3</sup>

4. In the autumn of this year (1930 A.D.) a unique transaction took place in Raymond, Alberta, when a neat little building, once a Mormon Chapel, was disposed of by the authorities of that cult, to a group of Japanese Buddhists. On an appointed day, with all the pomp and ceremony of Buddhist ritualism, including a parade that was over two blocks in length, more than two hundred Japanese participated in the dedicatory service of this Buddhist temple (erstwhile Mormon Chapel).

Peace is said to have been the main theme of the service at which the dedicatory prayer and sermon was delivered in Japanese by Rev. J. Nagatoni, a Buddhist priest. Newspaper reports would seem to indicate that these Japanese Buddhists have imported their own religion because NOTHING THEY HAVE FOUND HERE so vitally sponsors, "Peace on earth, good will toward men"<sup>4</sup>

1

See Report and Statistics compiled by Dr. F. C. Stephenson.

2

Ibid.

3

"Sixty Years of Canadian Progress 1867-1927" Published by National Committee for the Celebration of Diamond Jubilee of Confederation.

4

See "New Outlook" Oct. 22, 1930.

5. Re-Crime. Ontario for several decades has led the provinces of the dominion in records of crime. It is curious that throughout Quebec and British Columbia have held second and third places, respectively.<sup>5</sup> At random, ~~three~~<sup>four</sup> years are selected from the annual records of The Canada Year Book for each of those years:

	1906	1910	1914	1928
Ontario	27,574	41,401	65,806	158,338
Quebec	14,524	18,514	34,149	35,060
B. C.	3,952	6,868	22,694	24,142

Dr. Ernest Thomas has compiled a set of charts under the caption, "Which Way Now Canada", and published by the Board of Evangelism and Social Service of the United Church of Canada. Some of these charts, for our purposes, are extremely valuable. Especially is this true of three -- viz. No III "Canadian Crime Increases" No. IV "Canadian Crime Waves" and No. XIII "Changing Population and Crime".

Chart III represents the increase in Crime, with Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia in contrast with All Canada. The period is the decade 1918 - 1928 and the contrast is painful. It should be noted that the basis is the convictions per 100,000 of population, for those major offences known as indictable cases.

Reading the graph we find that: Crime throughout all Canada from 1918 - 1921 had risen 120%, but in British Columbia, in the same period it had increased 200% and in Ontario 130%, while Quebec was comparatively quiet. The next peak was in 1926 when All-Canada for the four year period 1922-1926 registered 111% while Ontario was 108%, B.C. showed 120% and Quebec reports her increase as 109%. But the years 1926-28 reveal an enormous upward rise in the curves representing each province. For all Canada it is 120%, Ontario 125%, Quebec 139% and British Columbia 113%.

<sup>5</sup>

See "Canada Year Book" for years concerned.

This graph sets forth some strange happenings. What social change can explain the marked differences after 1922 and 1926? The startling increase since 1926 is found in a period of marked economic prosperity -- a condition not usually associated with crime. Ontario has ever been characterized by her high degree of criminality but the rise and fall of the curve calls for consideration. British Columbia cannot lay the blame to the mixed character of its population -- that would not solve the problem of the variations. Quebec has undergone no marked change in the character of its people; but see the serious increase in crime during the last few years.

Diagram IV deals with the Maritime Provinces (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island), and the Prairie Provinces (Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta) as over against the whole of Canada during the same period 1918-1928. For the four years 1918-28 New Brunswick reveals 160% increase, Nova Scotia 123% and Prince Edward Island over 166%. (Prince Edward Island between 1906-1914 had increased more than 200% in convictions and sentences for all offences, but this graph is more serious, in being convictions per 100,000 of population for indictable offences. The increase for all Canada 1918-22 was 127% --, both P.E.I. and N.B. greatly in excess, Nova Scotia alone being under, and that only 4%. Yet will social cultures explain the startling changes -- the Maritimes have not undergone any considerable change in population. No immigrants can be held culpable for this lawless condition of society in the Maritimes.

The three Prairie Provinces in which the non-English races have mingled extensively present a curious reading. All Canada 1918-22 is 127%, Manitoba 126.76%, Sask. 143%, and Alta. 133%. This makes a more credible showing than the Maritimes and especially when we remember the large foreign element in the west. From 1926 on there is an upward rise in the curves representing all provinces. Perhaps a greater increase is found in the western than the eastern provinces in this latter mount (1926 onward) but this cannot be laid at the door of immigration.

That would be the equivalent of laying the blame for the Great Conflagration of Rome upon the inoffensive Christians who were living in the Imperial city at that particular time. Nero and others would have known full well the fire would have raged just the same if there had not been a Christian in the metropolis. It is true, that crime is on the increase in Canada, but it is mounting in those districts wherein there is no appreciable accession from immigration ( e.g. the Maritimes ) as well as in the Prairie Provinces which receive a large number annually -- weekly -- and even daily, for not many months hence a popular slogan was "A community a day passes through Winnipeg westward". If one should be disposed stubbornly to resist the force of this data adduced from the records as published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, and still persist in laying a large share of the blame and responsibility for this increasing criminal tendency, upon the incoming strangers to our shores, let that individual face the immigration for 1926. In the year 1926 it will be recalled every province in the Dominion started on its upward (and wayward) career in crime. The United Kingdom and the United States that year furnished us with nearly 57% of

6

the entrants into our land. It surely would not look well to charge so many, whom we regard in the highest esteem, with coming over here and setting the country aflame with lawless caprice.

Diagram XIII, "Changing Population and Crime" , reveals the astounding fact that while the crime-producing population (there are ways and means by which this has been ascertained and it is based on data and statistics from the Dominion Bureau by the Bureau's statisticians themselves, all of which will be fully presented and considered later) has not increased beyond

6

P 136 "Sixty Years of Canadian Progress.  
 1926 Immigration from United Kingdom 37,030  
 " " " States 18,778  
 Or a total of 55,808 from U.S. & United Kingdom, out of 96,064.

180% from 1901 - '29 yet crime has increased over 450%. All the factors entering into this unwholesome state of affairs, as well as a fairly accurate statement of the position of newcomers will be dealt with in a full manner under the relation between Immigration and Crime.

Enough has become the knowledge of the interested student to persuade him that crime is quite capable of perpetration and flourishes without the aid of immigrants as well as with their presence and any support they may give it. He will want to investigate fully and will not allow thoughtless persons to stampede him into a hasty judgment or untenable opinions. He will be forewarned that any who hold immigration to be the root of all evil, the cause of increasing criminal tendencies, degeneration, degradation, low wages and unemployment (for statistics are as pronounced about this as about crime), are simply shooting wide of all marks, or to use other phraseology are speaking in a zeal not born of knowledge. It is an open question just how much an influx of strangers within our gates could influence or alter situations which our economic and social customs have created -- in other words, which we have created for ourselves without any external assistance. Years ago, the Indians said that the white man was the harbinger of bad-luck. He had, so to speak, unfortunate circumstances, sickness, misery etc., in a satchel and when he decided it was opportune he opened up and let the disaster descend upon the Indians. So when sickness, misery, death overtook them, the Red Men said it is the white man -- he has brought this. To this day, barbarians of a certain mental development blame an epidemic of some dread disease to the coming of the missionary, trader or traveller as the case may be. The principle is the same -- he is a stranger, this is a strange happening. Consequently it has come with him. The more superstitious, of course, believe he can control the situation. How far have we emerged from the Indian-stage, or the superstition of the barbarian, when we tolerate the blame for our

economic and social ills to be laid exclusively at the door of the stranger within our gates?

6. There is something to be gained from those who have evinced, by coming to this country, their desire to make Canada their home. Perhaps it is interesting and in the good estate of the process of Canadianization to compute the quantity and quality of our polygot population. That may be why our government officials have adopted the policy of making provision in the columns of the census blanks for Polish, Ukrainian, Chinese and all the other origins of our people. But why not? Many will recall the frenzied attempt last spring when certain agitators went after the scalp of the government in power ( a benevolent force, or an infuriated wrath that would not be <sup>appeased</sup> ~~expressed~~, expressing itself through the Canadian electorate removed this august body from Ottawa) because of alleged ignoring of a proposal to provide a census blank for "100% Canadians". Charges flew thick and fast, some even of an intimidatory nature, that there never has been any attempt in this direction. Now, we know, no government has occasion to fear for its existence if it should decide to spare itself the trouble of making provision for the foreign origins of the Canadian people. It is well we have such records for in future years we shall be able to gauge more accurately than in the past or even at present our indebtedness to the various groups for much of that wealth which we are absorbing into our national and cultural life. Of course we believe and do not minimize the desirability and importance of provision in a column in the census blank for "Canadian". By "100% Canadian" what do these agitators mean -- birth in Canada of children to parents of foreign origin; birth in Canada to one parent Canadian born, and other parent foreign born, or Canadian born child of Canadian born father and Canadian born mother. Provision has been made, before this, for enumerating the number of children born in this country to parents who immigrated to this dominion from lands beyond the seas.



7. There is a growing conviction of the need for exploration parties to carefully go over all the land in connection with our task, and that is amply demonstrated by the efforts launched by the National Committee for Mental Hygiene in recent years and by the manifestation of dominion-wide concern resulting in the report of the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization entitled, "Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence and Report in Respect to the Consideration of the Subject of Immigration, the Immigration Act and Regulations and the Work of the Department of Immigration and Colonization", Session of 1928 of the Federal House.

Now, the desire being keen to embark on a voyage of discovery and exploration into this interesting area, let us see what the Canadian Pacific Railway has done to foster the means and invite public attention. For several years this enterprising railroad company has sponsored an annual gatherings of various nationalities within our borders, and called "Great West Festivals". These have at least revealed that Canada has received a wealth of culture and color from the more than seventy racial groups who have come to her in the last quarter of a century. We are told that each festival has outdone in success and has increased in popularity over the previous annual event. For ~~our~~<sup>ne</sup> performance alone, one can admit that it is no mean achievement in nation building when more than twenty of our country's racial groups can meet on a common platform and in song, dance and dress, each in its own racial style and national color, demonstrate the inherent racial culture each possesses to contribute to the building of a greater civilization than was possible in the old homeland. A western premier has said of these festivals, "Just as in the past the Anglo-Saxon race has been enriched by the Norman, the Norseman, and the Teutonic tribes, so to-day Canada is gaining by the best characteristics the Ukrainians, Poles, Germans, Scandinavians and all other European folk bring with them to Canada".

Taking this year's (1930) celebration, let me refer to an observer's article which is so excellent that I am prompted to quote from it at some length:

"The Calgary Festival recently held was a vivid, colorful and compelling revelation of the varied racial origin of our people, and a convincing and powerful demonstration of the value of the culture they are contributing to the national life of Canada. Here was proof that we Canadians are possessed of a wealth of cultural potentiality which if properly conserved and skilfully developed will without doubt result in great cultural achievements in our national life. Premier Brownlee at the opening of the Calgary Festival said, 'We are helping to preserve for our nation and the world something of the enthusiasm which the workman feels in the work of his hands, and which we are in danger of losing. It is only by encouraging the work of the hands that we can develop the great artists in our midst' ----- A western newspaper says, 'The festival is at once a revelation and an inspiration. It should induce a new appreciation of the so-called foreign element. Their song, dance, and handcraft, suggest a devotion to, and pride in, the land of their fathers. No fair-minded person should seek to wrest from them this inborn trait. What is of greater value to us is that they are revealing a culture that we should incorporate into our own, and a patriotism which we also, if we will, can incorporate into our own.'<sup>7</sup>

Our attendant was so impressed that, -- after reminding us of our cosmopolitan and polygot population (seventy-seven racial groups speaking more than one hundred and ten languages and dialects) mingling together in the building of a greater and a better civilization than the world has ever seen, -- he expresses himself in vigorous phraseology. "Races with centuries of culture are here to contribute their best to Canada.

<sup>7</sup> W. H. Pike, "The Foreigner, Culture and Color"

See New Outlook, Sept. 3, 1930.

Each of them has an artistic and cultural contribution to make to our national life, for each has its tradition and folklore, traditions which reveal an inherent love for the artistic and melodious. Let us recognize this, and patiently and lovingly draw it out and work it into the pattern of our Canadian mosaic. It is a worth-while effort because Canadian development is still in its formative period. In folk song, folk dance and handicraft work we have the expression of the best of our common folk as distinguished from the expression of the individual artist or genius. If we are to build up a Canadian tradition we must encourage handicraft, thus preserving the individuality of the worker, and his pride in achievement, With the folk songs we have the collective inspiration of the race expressed in song and melodies. The traditions of the race form a mighty influence, unconsciously working through the individual. By keeping fresh the best traditions of the various races forming part of our national life we are building citizenship and giving strength to the Canadianism of the future."

That we have been so slow to grasp the significance of all this, so reluctant to acknowledge any indebtedness to these newcomers from other climes, is bitterly lamented by our narrator as he continues his fascinating description of impressions gathered at the Calgary Festival. "We are a great nation -- great in potentiality. We have a veritable treasure-house of almost unexplored riches. Handicraft exhibits, such as our provincial Guilds are able to organize, demonstrate that the treasure is already within our country. Our racial groups can represent, in beautiful and colorful handwork, something of the artistic culture they have brought to enrich the life they will help to produce in the new land of their adoption. The whole exhibit at the Calgary Festival was a perfect riot of color, Embroideries, rugs, tapestries, garments, baskets, flowers, wood-carving, and a host of other handicrafts revealed

a wealth of artistic beauty and a prodigality of design and color combination. Racial groups in the picturesque costumes of old-country peasant beauty and color were to be seen everywhere. Exhibits came from every part of Canada, practically every group in our national life contributing. Tapestries and rugs of varied hues hung along the walls, glass cases housed elaborate and costly embroideries; indeed, it was the most valuable collection of handicrafts ever shown in Canada. Here was a pleasing wealth of beauty. One saw the warm rich colorings of the Roumanians, the Serbs and the Ukrainians, the deeper blues of the Hungarians, the subdued colorings of the Icelanders, the gay, flashy trappings of the native Indians. It was a revelation. We are rich also in the possession of an immense field of folk music. When more than four hundred performers from more than twenty racial groups, all in traditional costume, can provide a fascinating musical illustration of the wealth of their folk culture that attracts capacity houses in our largest western theatres no one can gainsay that there is treasure here. As group after group passed across the stage and added their color and contrasts to the rapidly changing panorama one felt that Canada was the luckiest country in the world, and that the Canadian people possess the potentialities of a great national life. Choristers, dancers, soloists, and interpreters of Icelandic, Norwegian, Hungarian, Polish, Roumanian, Ukrainian, English, Serbian, German, French-Canadian and other racial strains of artistic and cultural life revealed in a striking manner some of the foundations on which Canada is to-day building a new and better civilization.

The less we hold ourselves aloof from our New Canadians, the more we appreciate and understand them, the deeper we shall see into the soul of them. The sooner we demolish the walls that separate us and become conscious and cognizant of their worth as potential Canadians, the sooner will they see deep into the soul of us. Then and only then, will we build more stately mansions.

In a land of great material wealth such as Canada possesses, there is the danger of a poverty of spiritual fibre which may not enable us to see in the trappings of the most humble immigrant a bearer of gifts that may be a real contribution to the development of the noblest and best in this young nation.

Marie Zibeth Colman in "The Immigrant" (Ryerson Press) stresses just this thing:

" O Canada! Thou givest bread  
 With lavish hand--my body walks erect,  
 Well fed and sleek, for labor apt--  
 But my soul is a mendicant, kneeling for alms;  
 My heart is a leaf snatched by the wind,  
 Untimely done to death, and thou the tree.  
 But what is a leaf? Or why should the sound  
 Of a beggar's cry clutch at the heart and blanch  
 The cheek?  
 Oh, blind! THE BEGGAR'S HANDS  
 ARE HEAVY WITH THE GIFTS HE BEARS FOR THEE." 8

The door to this kind of knowledge is now wide open while information with essential material and data enough has been presented to invite our entrance. As we proceed our first view is the coming of people to our shores, and, naturally we want to know the 'wherefore and the why' of their setting eyes towards Canada. We will feel disposed to make a survey of, and to conduct an investigation into the groups and classes of people who are arriving daily.

But before doing this we may scan the horizon, glancing over this whole question of coming and going. That glance will be enough to feed our minds with a host of thoughts, some of which perhaps, will leave an indelible imprint upon our whole outlook so that our understanding of those who come asking to be fellow citizens with us of this great Commonwealth, will be more adequate and our attitude and treatment more sympathetic. That glance reveals ----

The most casual survey of the population shows that mankind has ever been moving: the history of man has ever been the dispersion. Not dwelling on the travelling capacities of man in the primitive age about which we know little, we make a

start with the period of savagery when the human tribes wandered from place to place causing mankind to be scattered over the face of the earth. The finding and location of choice places caused a scramble for occupancy and habitation so that fighting (the art of warfare) was introduced and first witnessed -----the age then passed into the age of barbarism. From now on movements are common and we may summarize briefly four of these by which man makes a permanent change of residence.

1. Invasion, which may be described as when a rude people with low culture but much physical virility overruns the territory of a more highly developed people. For a long time this was the process from Asia to Europe; and the famous account of the Goths going down the Danube and the Roman Empire making terms with them until after two hundred years, in the sixth century they go back north, is an example of Invasion. But brute force and numbers prevail only temporarily because as civilization continues the religion of the former (brute force and numbers) dies out and that of the latter (civilization) prevails.

2. Conquest. This is rather the impress of a new civilization by force of arms: in other words, it is more of a culture than a movement of people. When Rome fell her language and customs were superseded. The influence on the racial stock is very slight and one might be tempted to refer to British history for examples, as, the British in India or William the Conqueror in England.

3. Colonization. When a progressive and vigorous state sends out bodies to settle in certain specified localities the regions chosen are selected because they are thinly populated and those inhabitants who are already there offer little resistance. Thus it will be seen that colonization is commercial rather than military. In the days of the Roman Empire many places were regarded as colonies. For instance Cologne was a famous "colony" but it was a colony in the Roman sense, but not a colony according to our use of the term. There was

a fort, and some soldiers and military officers were garrisoned at this point. According to our use of the term Quebec and Virginia were colonies, the former, of France, and the latter of Britain. One must bear in mind the fact of two kinds of colonies, a distinction being made between "farm" colonies and those known as "plantation" colonies. The farm colony is set up in regions that are similar to the homeland. It is almost always agricultural -- its distinguishing feature being that it is a movement of families and it naturally takes the form of small holdings of land owned and cultivated each by one family. With the plantation colony there is something totally different. As a rule, it is a movement to the tropics from the temperate zone, of individuals rather than families; the product is a luxury (e.g. sugar, coffee etc.) rather than a staple commodity (e.g. wheat, oats etc.); there is not any hard labor associated with the people who have migrated (this is reserved for the natives to do or else negroes from Africa or Hindoos from the East Indies are brought out to do it). As the movement is largely one of individuals, rather than families, and as one who migrates to such a place will in all probability have many working his plantation, it is obvious that there will be far more men than women and that normal family life is an utter impossibility. Further, in a few years there will be seen a somewhat changed population as there grows up a large class of half-breeds. Another contributing factor to the somewhat changed condition is that the climate has an unwholesome effect upon all people -- those who migrate to such a place and also upon the natives. It has been proven quite conclusively that people in such climes are not as dependable as those in northern parts ..... many therefore regard the drowsiness etc., produced by the heat as responsible in no small measure for the general laxity prevalent and they endeavor to establish a connection between these conditions which is productive of demoralization.

4. Immigration readily distinguishes itself, indeed disassociates itself, from any and all these other movements of population. It takes place over a single cultured area; it is essentially an individual undertaking inducing an improvement of conditions for the individual. "Difference" is the key-note. The new country is more thinly settled than the old and more spacious thus the ratio of man to men is an important determining factor. The disparity in opportunity especially for the future, is always reckoned with in favor of the sought-after land as giving more hope and brighter prospects for the children, with even a better chance for the remaining earthly days of the parents themselves. Immigration may be said to be largely a phenomenon of peace when man is free to move. It is to be remembered that this is also a selective process for if a man is free to move, he must needs have either some money or credit, although he often receives aid from the government and frequently has relatives out here. Since those who immigrate are of a comparatively high degree of civilization we can afford to be as generous as those last mentioned provisions will warrant, for we are not dealing with hordes, as the Romans did with the Goths at their gates; nor are we dealing as southern parts who received individuals who by their plantation enterprises not only defrauded the large native population of just dues and living wages but introduced debauchery on such a scale as to utterly corrupt the whole country. Immigration does disassociate itself from the movements of people experienced by our ancestors, for it is distinctly a modern movement originating in the nineteenth century. We realize that it is not like Tennyson's "Brook" which goes on "forever" but is a temporary thing -- like the flow of water from a higher to a lower level -- until there will be one level. Already it has moderated. When opportunities present themselves sufficiently in Europe it will cease from there, hence taking it all in all with every country, when conditions become equal (when the level is reached) the flow of immigration will cease. In every case there is some definite purpose



(e.g. The Moors driven from Spain, or the Huguenots from France -- the purpose was expulsion -- they emigrated because they had to get out). Again, we have the purpose in migrations because of penal colonies, Australia, West Indies, Virginia etc. Thus, when we look out and behold the people pouring into this country, we say it is immigration, not travel, --- they are coming with a purpose --- travel is only aimless wandering.

The why and wherefore of this steady stream is that having been seized of the glories of living under the protection of British freedom and justice, these people have yearned to escape from the impoverished conditions, degradation and humiliation imposed by conditions over which they have no control in the old home lands <sup>9</sup>, and have resolved to make a last desperate stand against such conditions imposing themselves upon their children. They have looked to Canada and there on the horizon have seen hope blaze forth. They have rejoiced to see the day of their salvation draw near for Canada offers freedom from political oppression and religious persecution. Canada has a very small ratio between population and land -- only about two per square mile -- thus the population is sparse even after excluding the uninhabitable parts. Canada, the great hope of the future, provides attraction to peoples groaning under the injustice of not having had a chance to progress in life, who have no other dower than their own physical strength. Of course, as far as industrial countries are concerned, the rearing of a protective tariff makes it easier for the workman to come than the goods which he produces.

<sup>9</sup>  
While space will not permit a discussion of these, yet since the war the rise of the "Minority Problem" has added an acute burden, and should be mentioned. Briefly, in the rearrangement of international boundaries in some way a person finds himself deprived of one nationality and unable to secure another. Such a person belongs to a minority who find themselves in a country governed by those of another race who are numerically in the majority.

For a detailed account see  
"The Central European Immigrant in Canada"

by Robt. England.

As the official custodians of the rights of the Canadian people have witnessed the incoming of immigrants to our land they have observed certain tendencies the result of which has caused them to believe that immigration, generally speaking, is apt to deteriorate in human quality. Coupled with this is the fact that past immigration has been a stimulus to present and future arrivals, so much so, that by the interchange of letters and visitors, or other means, a knowledge of conditions obtaining here amongst New Canadians was so persuasively and advantageously spread that in one year less than seventeen per cent (17%) of the total number of aliens seeking entrance through our ports were coming as strangers unacquainted with any individuals out here (that is a number in excess of eighty-three per cent of the arrivals that year were coming to join friends or relatives). Therefore, it is incumbent upon those in authority over such matters to see to it that a careful analysis and grading of all classes who have come, is made, so that only those who are giving promise of becoming desirable and worthy citizens will be permitted to induce like-minded friends, relatives and acquaintances to emigrate from the old land. At present we are disposed to accept immigration until the normal equality is established in Europe and here, that is, the same recognized level and standard of living. But until then, we can afford to determine who will be permitted to come, for moral values and worth must be recognized in addition to physique and prospective opportunity. We can no longer be expected to hold out a welcome to all and sundry who would come otherwise the deterioration would overtake the construction and upbuilding of the standard for the future. If such were the case Canada would be the recipient of a stab in her heart from which of course she could never recover. The Dominion Government, recognizing its responsibility and the seriousness of the situation with respect to the Canadian people and their future has come to a conclusion, the basis of which was a discovery. The discovery was that the better part of continental Europe from which to recruit future settlers for Canada is the

western and northern section; the less desirable and more dangerous areas are those to the south and east for the farther one goes in these parts the less-promising do the inhabitants become. The conclusion is manifested in the action in recent years, which has divided Europe into three areas for immigration purposes. In the preferred area there are included France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland. The people of this section are mainly of a type accustomed to climatic conditions similar to those prevailing in Canada, and have been found by experience to make excellent settlers. Every encouragement, as we shall presently see, has been offered desirable immigrants from these countries. The second section includes most of the countries of Central Europe: Poland, Jugo-Slavia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Russia, Austria, Esthonia, Roumania, Luthuania and Latvia. Canada can absorb a certain amount of immigration of the agricultural type from these countries provided they are assured of employment either as laborers on Canadian farms or as farmers on their own account. In order to promote this type of immigration from this area the Department of Immigration at Ottawa in 1925 entered into an arrangement with the Canadian National Railways and the Canadian Pacific Railway under which these companies recruit agricultural settlers in the countries specified, giving a twofold guarantee to the Canadian Government: first, that the immigrants selected were of the agricultural type, and, second, that they would place them in farm employment in Canada. This, of course, did not in any way limit the right of the Department to reject any of these proposed immigrants on the grounds of health, character, or general unfitness. This arrangement will be discussed at length, at a later stage, as will also the attack upon the railways for their proclivities, by the Hon. J. A. Merkly, Saskatchewan, last spring. The third area of Europe consists mainly of those countries

bordering the Mediterranean, and as far as we are concerned it is not at all desirable to have an influx of Italians, Greeks, Syrians, Armenians or Turks. (The Slavic group inclusive of some peoples in this area will be dealt with in a full manner a little farther on.) Immigrants of the agricultural class from these countries are admitted on compliance with the general provisions of the Immigration Act, but there is no special arrangement for promoting such immigration. In passing it may be pointed out that, as a rule, newcomers from these countries do not distinguish themselves by their zeal in agricultural pursuits, rather the majority of these people enter into various mercantile enterprises as shoe-shining parlors, restaurants, stores and divers sorts of small trade.

Our survey and investigation will be a running comment on conditions in general (rather than the listing of columns of figures and the arranging in parallel fashion statistics, which in themselves are lacking in the power to maintain interest) with especial reference to specific data where it has an important bearing and should be cited in support of the statement made.

#### I CONTINENTAL EUROPE The Preferred Area

Little need be said by way of introduction to the industrious and thrifty habits of the French who have by a long and glorious history in "New France" left an indelible impress upon Quebec and all Canada. We cannot but admit it. The fact is, as was the case with one who replied to a friend of mine spending his vacation in Quebec, upon my friend's inquiry as to his racial origin, "Je suis Scotch". My friend had put the question in the English language but the respondent was so indebted to the French that for a moment he forgot and began to reply in that tongue then suddenly catching himself, he continued "Scotch". He was a Scot who had almost become French. Just as he found himself unable to get away from his indebtedness, so must we admit, perforce, that we, as Canadians, cannot tear ourselves away from the French which manifests

itself in so many ways in our culture, our national life and our glorified Canadian civilization, whether we are disposed to admit it or not.

When one thinks of Belgium he thinks of six millions of people crowded into an area of 11,373 square miles, or three times as many people as are in the province of Quebec with an area sixty-two times as large. Holland has about three hundred and fifty-five persons per square mile, and must protect at great labor and expense her land from the ravages of the sea. The most densely populated part of Canada has not more than forty-four persons to the square-mile, while taking the Dominion as a whole, according to provincial population per square mile of provincial territory, the average is 10.312.<sup>10</sup>

We know how the people of the Netherlands are driven by sheer necessity to intensive farming not allowing even one foot of earth to be wasted. We, in Canada, welcome these people assuring them of a hearty reception where their skill and industrious energy commends itself and finds scope in the vast tracts of uncultivated land.

The Scandinavian group comprises the people from Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Iceland, who are said by many observers to rank among the best of our immigrants. As a group, and as individual classes, they have always maintained a very low ratio of deportations to admissions.<sup>11</sup> Thrift and hard work do not breed feeders for the mischief-making class, and one has only to look at the national life of these peoples for a revelation of their tireless energy and industrious spirit. Iceland was visited by many of her sons from Canada this past summer when the one thousandeth Anniversary of the Opening of her Parliament was celebrated in great pomp and splendor.

<sup>10</sup> "Sixty Years of Can. Progress" P. 33 Chart "Popln. of Dom. 1867 and 1927 by provs. from which figures this average is computed.

<sup>11</sup> See discussion under "Crime" farther on.

This island is obliged to import food stuffs yet there is intensive industry in gardening, fishing and the raising of sheep and cattle. There is also the scientific study and teaching of agriculture while general education is encouraged to a high degree, even in places where the establishment of schools is difficult the situation being met by teachers travelling from place to place and giving instruction in the home. Paved roads and automobiles within the extremely limited distances of the capital bespeak the ambitions of the people to progress by the aid of modern methods and inventions. Those Icelanders who have come have not put forth any determined effort to segregate themselves but reveal the possession of characteristics essential for a worthy type of Canadian Citizenship. They have shown a keen interest in public affairs, are well represented in municipal and provincial government, promote education and contribute to the membership of the various professions. In addition to the use of the English language, they are able to keep in touch with their mother-tongue through the publication of several papers in Icelandic. Frequently one meets with the English form of the Icelandic name, which gives evidence beyond any other measure, of the desire of these people to give their very best to the cultural development of our Canadian future.

Norway and Sweden have all to be said in the favor of their peoples that is said in estimation of the capabilities and value of the Icelander as a worthy prospect for immigration. The education is superior because of the possibility of wider achievements among greater population in both of these countries. In Sweden education is compulsory for the ages seven to fourteen, and the annual expenditure for this is about twelve million dollars. In Norway the rural schools are distinct from city schools and come under special regulations. About two and one-half million dollars are spent on the rural side and children attend from six and one-half to fourteen years of age. The influence of this system of

education upon national life may be inferred from the fact that only about twenty-two per cent of the population live in the cities in Sweden, and hence both there and in Norway may be found a vigorous and intelligent rural life. The Scandinavian people are accustomed to a rigorous climate; they are acquainted with agriculture, forestry, fishing; they are known for honesty, hospitality, patriotism and love of freedom; they insist on perfect toleration in religion though the state church is Lutheran, and when they emigrate to Canada they bring these virtues with them. Hence they assimilate quickly, intermarry with Anglo-Saxons, acquire English, become interested and active in the life of the state, and although conditions in Scandinavian countries are almost too prosperous to promote extensive emigration yet it may be hoped that a steady, even if a small, flow of these people to our land will be maintained. <sup>12</sup> Something remains to be said in respect to the two countries of the preferred area, not yet mentioned in detail, Germany and Finland.

The figures here adduced in connection with the agricultural class from these countries, are highly significant and well worthy of commanding our attention in view of the economic depression during the past few years amongst the farmers in the western provinces, and in view of very definite pronouncements from such bodies as the United Farmers of Canada, Saskatchewan Section, at their Moose Jaw Convention 1927 urging that "all immigration activities should cease until the whole question has been thoroughly examined on a scientific and economic basis" <sup>13</sup> (This aspect will be fully considered under the discussion of various proposed remedies <sup>12</sup>

During the Seven Fiscal Years ended March 31, 1927 the immigration from the Scandinavian countries was 18,061 adult male farmers, and 2,005 female domestic servants. The German and Finnish immigration during the same period is: German 10,242 adult male farmers and 2,361 female domestic servants; Finnish 11,605 and 2,650. Yet in 1927 the immigration from non-preferred areas was 165% greater than from the preferred countries. See p 782 also p 761, Report of the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Immigration, 1928.

<sup>13</sup> Select Standing Committee's Report 1928 p 822. Also resolutions from Alberta etc.

by representative Canadians). It is curious to discover that about as many German immigrants have come to Canada within the last eight or ten years as came in the twenty years 1900-1920 when 33,834 arrived. To be exact, the following are the Immigration Office's Returns for the period 1920-1928 inclusive:

9,411(1928)	The rapid increase from 1922 may be explained
12,540(1927)	by the fact that prior to May 9, 1922 a money
7,356	qualification which varied in different periods
2,215	was in effect. Exemptions were granted to the
1,769	farming class and to relatives of certain degrees.
216	On May 9, 1922 this money requirement was ab-
178 (1922)	rogated in favor of all classes (farming and
137 (1921)	others) of British subjects and residents of
<u>12 (1920)</u>	the Continent north of the German Line. In
<u>33,834</u>	1926, however, this beneficial treatment was

extended to Germany. Scanning the returns for this nine year period it is gratifying to note that 26,143 or over 77% of the entire number, are listed under the column, "Farming Class", and the destination of the majority was the Western Provinces. On the whole this is gratifying as the German agriculturalists both in Ontario and especially in Saskatchewan where they form so large an element of the population, are a desirable and satisfactory class of citizens. The Finns have been a problem to Canada until more recent years -- in all probability the unregulated and disastrous policy of our government during the first-half of this period, from 1900 to the present, in admitting all and sundry allowing steamship and railway companies to dump as many as they could bring over, has been responsible for the trouble experienced with the "undesirable element" in former years. Let me quote Professor W. G. Smith, " (Finns) ..... there are at least two distinct types, one the educated type who, sharing in the better outlook that even elementary education brings, is engaged in some form of commercial life, is industrious, law-abiding, and seeks as a respectable citizen the rights



and privileges of naturalization; the other type is pronounced by the better class of Finns to be recruited from the most ignorant and immoral of all the emigrants from Finland. These are engaged mainly in unskilled labor, especially in mining industries, and information regarding their mode of life in frontier towns lends definite color to the view that they are not at all burdened by over-devotion to the land wherein they find the means of livelihood. But lack of education combined with severe physical labor, can hardly be expected to always produce a pronounced patriotic fervor, and in the case of this second type of Finn produces a deplorable hostility to established institutions, political and religious".<sup>14</sup>

In my limited experience I have come in contact with both classes as here described and from conversation with others who in other districts have seen this second type, would hazard a general statement that the Finn of the first type is congenial and associates freely in a social and business way with other peoples, whereas a sharp line of demarcation separates the Finn of the second type from associating with any others than those of his own ilk (i.e. second type Finn). These have been known to go into an abandoned mining camp and dwell together in the deserted houses, matters becoming so deplorable and obnoxious that authoritative interference has been necessitated.<sup>15</sup> I am told that this type has been found in small segregated clusters in the bush of the Parry Sound district, where they live a life of debauchery, and cut some wood to proverbially, "keep the wolf from the door", not to make any money. Thrift and progress clearly distinguish these two groups. We rejoice to observe that during the last ten years out of over twenty-five thousand arrivals from Finland, considerably more than fifteen-thousand have taken

14

A Study in Canadian Immigration pp 215, 216

15

Deserted mining camp of Giroux Lake, near Cobalt, Ont., famous by way, as once the home of Dr. Drummond where he wrote many of his poems.

up life on Canadian farms and a very small number, one per cent or less of the entire immigration for the decade, is of classes productive of this second-type of Finn.

Of these countries in the preferred area Holland is the only one which permits any advertising propaganda or publicity to be carried on. The Canadian Government Immigration Officers stationed in the other countries therefore merely give advice when it is sought and are more or less for reference. This has its attractiveness because intending emigrants will not inquire unless they are assured of ability to proceed since medical inspection takes place before embarkation. Does this fact in the light of the numbers coming to us in the past decade not argue well for the class of people who are being attracted to Canada?

#### CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN COUNTRIES

Some persistent questioning as to why a distinction was made between European countries classifying some as preferred and others as non-preferred, was indulged in at one of the sessions of the Committee investigating the whole question of Immigration during the session of 1928. Something definite was lent to the discussion when one member raised the question as to why Germany was listed among the "preferred" while Austria was designated as a non-preferred country. Mr. W. J. Egan, the Deputy-Minister, explained that he was not defending the operations of his department, but was there at the request of the Committee to explain, hence, the classification was a matter of policy. He admitted that the Austrian people are of the same type as the Germans but while you will give them some consideration if you find them in the country districts, "yet the actual facts are that Austria is very, very limited as far as men physically fit or with farm labor experience is concerned. It is more a matter of city life with them." He continued his explanation by saying that there is not the same degree of organization amongst the peoples of these countries as there

is north of the German Line. Hence the feeling of his department is that it is not in the best interests of Canada to encourage immigration from this region and yet endeavoring to be fair with, and the guardian of, immigrants ( even those from countries now in the non-preferred area) and not wishing to place any obstacle in the path of a worthy prospect who has been fired with ambitious intent and anticipater entering Canada from this area, has dealt in as generous a measure as it is possible to deal, with these districts. Agricultural workers, domestic servants or those within a prescribed degree of relationship to residents already legally admitted to Canada are permitted to come from these countries. Special exception may be made in cases in which the Minister of Immigration is satisfied that their labor or service is required in Canada. These people are required to have passports and must be in a position to pay their fare ( the average minimum ocean rate is one hundred and thirty-five dollars) as no special rate or assistance of any kind is given by the Canadian Government to them. 65,492 people migrated from this area during the years 1920-29 according to the Immigration Office returns and in one year alone, the C. P. R. brought out 18,986 ( 1927 ) while that same year that railway brought out less from the preferred area, 11,523.

THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA During the year 1927 a large contingent of Jews and Italians 4,863 of the former and 3,466 of the latter, came to our dominion, while for the entire area the total number was 9,416. With the exception of some of the Italians from the northern part of that country, these people will not go on the land. The question naturally arises, How do these people come here then? The regulations governing their admittance are the same as those enumerated for the people of Central and Southern Europe. The most common proceeding is for some one to "nominate" and the application be sent in to the Department at Ottawa to be investigated and passed upon. Frequently it works

out in some such manner as this-- a native of one of these countries has come to Canada and is making a good living; he desires to bring out some relative from the homeland and advises the member of parliament for the constituency in which he resides that he can protect his interests and that there is a job awaiting him. The member, generally conversant with the situation presents an application for a letter of admission, to the Minister of Immigration who causes all the facts in connection with the case to be investigated and passed upon. If matters are found to have been truthfully stated and the officials in charge are satisfied that the newcomer will not be liable to become a public charge, a letter of admission is issued and the relative migrates to Canada. This system has been badly abused and the department officials deserve great credit for the courageous manner in which they have been fighting the evil of falsification. To illustrate-- somebody for a fee will pretend that he wants a certain individual to come to work and will accordingly sign the papers -- "nominate". The agent who is bringing out the individual is satisfied and brings out his man who arrives penniless and destitute, a public charge upon the municipality. With the coming into effect of the agreement with the railways it was hoped this evil would vanish as the railway was to become responsible for the immigrants which it contracted to bring out. However the department officials have time and again pointed out the solution -- if Parliament would give instructions that "no application shall be accepted for continental immigrants unless coming from their relatives". the evil would be uprooted.

The Italians may be taken as a representative class of the people from the Mediterranean area. Of course one must bear in mind that before Italy was a non-preferred country, these people were pouring in but nowadays the Italian government is as anxious to retain them in the homeland as we are to keep down the number immigrating. Italy up to the

present allows no Canadian doctor to inspect people proposing to emigrate from her shores, in the country but there are reasons to believe this position cannot be maintained much longer. The point is however that both Italy herself and our department prefer to see as small a number as possible leave for Canada. Of the Italian immigrants who have come to our shores, it has been frequently noticed that they are mainly such as may be described as able-bodied. No aged or infirm, or persons unable to work are found among them. Of late years they have been comparatively young in the great majority of cases, in fact one annual report of the U. S. Commissioner-General of Immigration lists eighty-four per cent of the Italian immigrants that year as belonging to the working age ( i.e. between fourteen and forty-five years of age).

The Italian arrives, an able-bodied worker, with very little money and in need of some immediate work. The one thing that is more often open than any other is unskilled labor which is particularly the thing selected by the immigrant from Southern Italy, where the factory system of industry with its division of labor has not been so much developed as in the Northern part. The heavy out-door labor on the streets of the cities, in the construction of railroads, in the rougher work connected with the erection of great buildings, has fallen to the task of the Italian, and with remarkable endurance and no little skill he has done much of the pioneer work of the Western world, work indeed which many of his educated fellows will not do. Their inability to speak English has compelled them to keep together in "gangs" where they can be directed by an Italian foreman. But because the Italian, lacking the knowledge of English, follows this line of hard unskilled labor it does not follow that the educated children of such a man will follow the same avocation. And the way in which the Italians have captured such a large part of the greengrocery trade in

the cities is proof of his ingenuity and adaptability. The same lack of knowledge of English which compels the Italian to work in gangs, also drives him into segregation in the large cities where he establishes a colony of his own people, with the retention of the language, customs and traditions of Italy. This of course produces overcrowding in a deplorable degree, and manifestly retards the Canadianization of the family. Whole districts in a city are frequently made up of different colonies, little Italy, Poland, Russia etc. The evils of congestion, bad housing etc. are aggravated by these people and due to their ignorance of our laws of sanitation and of our city orders they frequently find themselves charged with offences. While these offences are mainly merely violations of city ordinances and not crimes, bearing testimony to the incomplete adjustment of the new resident, yet the impression gets abroad that these foreigners are criminals. The great trouble is that the older people do not learn English while the younger folk imitate the language and fashions of the new country consequently separating themselves from the confidence and care of the parents who regard them as having turned their backs on the religion and customs of their fathers. The children associate with the English speaking children of other foreigners and perhaps with any native children who dwell near ----- this all helps to swell the crime producing population. In fact the native born children of foreign born parents are found to be the greater number of juvenile offenders. One U. S. report of juvenile offenders listed 30% native white; 37% native born of foreign parents; 24% foreign born; 9% were born of mixed parentage. That every possible inducement would be advanced by our authorities to these people to learn our language, one would naturally suppose. But not a few are puzzled over a judgment handed down in a School Trustee Case in Manitoba, which was to the effect that a man may be a school trustee if able to read or write a European language

16

but not necessarily the English language. This non-inducement for the European to learn our language permits him to retain all the mannerisms of the old land in Manitoba and prevents him from progressive striving towards assimilation.

The extent to which advantage is taken of application for letters to facilitate entry from these non-preferred countries is seen by the fact that from April 1926 to April 1928 on the recommendation of Members of Parliament, three thousand two hundred and ninety such letters were issued. Very often one of these letters will cover the case of a continental family which might include as many as nine persons.

## II THE UNITED KINGDOM

<u>Year</u>	<u>Non-British</u>	<u>British</u>	<u>United States</u>
1923	22%	47%	31%
1924	37%	49%	14%
1925	38%	47%	15%
1926	41%	39%	20%
1927	50%	34%	16%
1928	52%	36%	12% (first 4 months)

After quoting the above figure to the Committee at its session on May 1, 1928 Canon Vernon (of the Church of England) said, "These records seem to forecast that if incomings continue to proceed on these lines the time is not far distant when peoples of Anglo-Saxon origin will be in the minority and when the dominant proportion will be of a different type. Thoughtful citizens in the Province of Saskatchewan are of the opinion that in that province the percentage of foreign elements is already larger than those of British origin. The question is being asked as to whether this is safe and wholesome for the future of the country ..... some means should be adopted to increase the inflow of settlers from the British Isles and temporarily to arrest that from

16

Minutes of Proceedings 1928 p. 496

17

p. 496 Minutes of Proceedings 1928.

other parts..... In the neighboring Republic where the preponderating proportion in immigration from central Europe has already become a most serious problem, leading statesmen are entertaining gravest apprehension as to the outcome for the future. Visitors from the United States who come to our Dominion are loud in their warnings that we should profit by their experience and not flood the country with immigrants who will produce the puzzling problem with which they are already confronted." Since this represents the thought common to a large number of Canadians, I have been prompted to quote at length, also let me include a concrete instance cited by the Canon in his plea for a wider latitude in the administration of existing regulations re- assisted passages to Britishers. "I believe that land settlement ought to be interpreted liberally. We had an application from a clergyman along the line of the C. P. R. in British Columbia where a man wanted to nominate a British family with four children. The man who desired to nominate was a section foreman on the railway and he promised this man work on the railway and he could also take up some land. The reason this section foreman wanted to get this British family with four children was that they had to have twelve children in the district to have a school. He had children and another family had children and if they could get four more children it would make twelve, and there would be a good school in the district. We were not able to get those people nominated for the assisted passage. I recognize the regulations, but surely that was a case where a family was sure of work, where they would develop a piece of land, and where they would help eight unfortunate children to get the instruction we want them all to get."

All the statements contained in these words from Canon Vernon cause us to look at facts, which if we do, we will see how unfounded are some of our clamorings (I am not suggesting that Canon Vernon's mild criticisms are unfounded



but I am questioning the feasibility of putting into practice the suggestions arising out of his statements). For instance, the Department of Immigration is favoring British immigrants who will settle on our land but what is the result. In spite of the fact that assisted passage is given, plus \$1,500 from the Imperial Government, and placing on farms by our Immigration department, British families have disappointed us in this scheme. In the first place (of this 3,000 British Family Settlement Scheme) out of the applications approved during the years 1925-28, over twenty-two per cent cancelled their applications prior to sailing ( p53 Minutes and Proceedings 1928) : in the second place, some who did come out took advantage of a clause which enabled them to proceed to city life during the winter and the testimony of Miss Childs, General Secretary of the Social Welfare Commission of the City of Winnipeg, and Secretary of the Unemployment Committee, was to the effect that the Commission has been so besieged that they were forced to adopt a policy from 1925 onwards refusing to deal with (a) single unemployed men (b) families less than one year in city (c) married men with less than three dependents. In spite of these restrictions this public (for it is the City of Winnipeg itself and the funds are raised by taxation) Commission dealt with five hundred and seventy-eight families during the winter of 1927. Miss Childs said many were British and it was harder to get the British back to country life after being in the city than if they had not come to the city at all. (See pp 426-455 Minutes of Proceedings 1928). It is readily seen that a vast number of Britishers coming out are not of the farming class at all (since less than 5% of the population of the British Isles constitute the agricultural element). Further,<sup>18</sup> British immigration has been steadily declining since 1921. The hope seems to lay in British boys and domestic servants and the Immigration policy through co-operation with the

Churches, Salvation Army and other bodies has certainly done much successful recruiting-- these boys as farm laborers obtain free passage. The point, then, is that the Department has been doing all in its power to select and induce British immigrants of the agricultural class to come to Canada. The impossibility of recruiting a large class from a small percentage of population in the British Isles is self evident and our hope is in those disposed to farm life who will undergo training and perchance adopt that pursuit as a livelihood. Hence the success we are meeting with in bringing out boys fourteen to seventeen after a period of training before they set sail from the Old Country. Our Department also is doing its utmost to safeguard the inflow from Continental Europe by not only classifying it into preferred and non-preferred areas but also by not giving any aid to newcomers from the continent and by strict medical examinations in the home countries. The doctor at Danzig rejected 4000 out of 9000 which refutes the charge that our incoming people are merely given a cursory glance and admitted. In Great Britain there are 334 places where intending immigrants may be examined thus saving the disappointment of waiting until arrival here to be examined and being rejected. It is better to be rejected before one sails than to come over and have to return through inability to pass the medical test.

Let us refer to the case cited of the section foreman in British Columbia who desired to nominate a British family. On the face of it there seems to be a harsh injustice. Local aspects always reveal the unfair but when we view the case from nation wide significance it assumes different proportions. One could match this case with another cited by Miss Childs where a family (British) came to Manitoba and worked a small tract of land, the husband engaged in a gainful occupation as well, hoping to obtain a farm later. Health failed, the family moved to Winnipeg where they were deprived of the

foodstuffs at their disposal on the land, and the case constituted a public charge.

The fact of the matter is we must have patience and read between the lines in the matter of the Immigration policy, that our department is endeavoring to work out a selective process affording every encouragement and giving every inducement to those in the British Isles who give prospects (and display the willingness) of becoming useful farmers in Canada. The method of dealing with entrants from other countries bears witness to this ambition on the part of our officials. The criticism of a prominent man in the public life of the Dominion that, "the major part of recruiting ( in Gt. Britain) was left to the transportation companies and the voluntary agencies, while the main job of the Government representatives in Great Britain is to prevent the admission of the unfit" (Canon Vernon) seems rather to be born within the limits of localized outlook rather than of an optimistic patient expectancy. It is greatly to be feared that this is just the condition of much of our thinking and pronouncement on the subject.

To make a survey of the results of immigration as far as the undesirable and costly aspects are concerned will compensate us with the satisfaction and the assurance that our problems are largely concerned with the wholesale dumping before nineteen hundred and fourteen. From nineteen hundred and nineteen onwards the authorities became aroused to the prospects of a troubled future if conditions should be allowed to go on unremedied. Now, thanks to our supervision and scrutiny it is almost impossible for undesirables to pass our officials although occasionally one does enter illegally.

Pauperism. The population within the walls of our charitable homes as alms-houses etc. reveals only one-third of the portion are native, thus nearly three times as many foreign-

born are maintained at public expense. The United States reports make an interesting survey of this whole situation, 67% paupers are listed as foreign-born while 25% are registered as belonging to the first generation of foreign born. To arrive at an adequate solution of the problem one would have to consider the ability to earn and the employment to be obtained, co-relating the immigrant to the labor market. Frequently there is a marked lack of intelligence to appraise the situation. Conditions, mode of living and money-values are altogether different to what the newcomers has ever experienced. The lack of industrial training makes many of these people inferior in competition with people in this country and so the hardest work, the least wages, the longest hours and the first out of a job, are the rewards awaiting their efforts. Coupled with this is the fact that there may be a heavy family budget or money may be sent to someone in the old land. The course is clearly seen -- insufficient earnings, low wages, unemployment, sickness, disaster, possibly the failing of character ..... a public charge. Some societies have reported it as their experience that there is more poverty among the older ones out here than among the newcomers. The evidence submitted by Miss Gertrude Childs of Winnipeg to the Committee during the Session of 1928 at Ottawa shows clearly what a heavy expenditure is placed upon the citizens of Winnipeg by this aspect of immigration. The charitable aspect ( the institutional care is very important) is altogether too large an outlay and is aggrieved seriously by seasonal employment and the fact that many immigrants coming in the spring, barely make enough to exist on throughout the summer and are stranded in November. This has to do as much with many who work on farms as with other hired labor. It does not take much of a stretch of imagination to picture the evil effect of home crowding conditions in a city where hundreds are out of work upon the moral condition of the people and the prospects for the future. A winter of indolence

makes it easier to play up sick and idle through the summer in the hopes of aid the next winter. And just that very thing -- the alarming proportion of repeaters -- spells disaster, unrest and troublesome days ahead. During the discussion in committee the Hon. Mr. Forke ( then Minister) and one or two members endeavored to absolve the Department from any blame that might be attaching. One only feels he could say present policies were not always enforced --- neither were they in vogue soon enough. Demands for work (manual labor) awaiting the immigrant before a letter to facilitate admittance, can be traced only to 1926. The arrangement with the railways making it a condition that they guarantee a place of work upon a farm to each immigrant brought out under their schemes had to be renewed with restrictions in 1927 so ineffective had been the workings of the 1925 compact with regard to work awaiting the incoming laborer.

Disease. Occasionally now one reads of a huge hospital bill which some municipality is compelled to pay because of an immigrant's admittance. Now, before our policy of inspection before setting sail was adopted, <sup>even</sup> in the days when the immigrants were examined at the port of entry and the doctors had not nearly as good an opportunity to make a thorough check-up, on the whole the immigrant was of an age and type to be in pretty fair health. While our statistics were a little higher ( percentage ) than those of the United States yet it is significant to recall the admission of the American Immigration officials that the foreign-born do not contribute more than their share to the volume of disease. Our every-day acquaintance with larger numbers of immigrants than native born in the public wards of our hospitals is accounted for because they are poor, not that there are more of them sick, or that they are any more sick. With regard to insanity the percentage is much higher, figures for one year in the United States placed one-third foreign, while fifty-

percent of the native-born were of partial foreign born parentage. What one really desires to know, is, what proportions of the various nationalities are insane? and the reports of the Canadian National Committee for Hygiene afford some puzzling information. It appears that in the home country insanity may rank very high (e.g. Ireland, the greatest contributor among all European countries) but when transplanted to Canada the descendants may show signs of change either of improvement (Irish third) or deterioration (Russian, highest, while according to European-born Russia is fourth). The case stands, by "origins" Russian, French, Irish, Scotch, English, Italian, Scandinavian, Austrian, Hungarian, German and Indian. Hence, in dealing with insanity, feeble-mindedness, blindness etc. it is wise to inform one's mind not as to the total number amongst all immigrants and lay the charge in general against them, but as to the percentage in the homeland and in Canada, then direct attention against the most offensive group. It may be true, as was reported that thirty per cent were immigrants in Ontario's asylums, but some one group may have contributed twenty per cent and all other nationalities between them only ten per cent. Where would you lay the blame? A stricter investigation might be urged for such nationalities as are apt to contribute more than their share to our institutions. What has here been said of the insane is true of all defectives.

Crime. In two places previously we have touched on crime and criminal tendencies and what was said in each place should be reviewed in the mind. Number 5, in the Introduction in a fairly exhaustive manner set forth the conditions of crime in Canada today. From dominion statistics it was revealed that crime had increased in a surprising ascendancy in parts experiencing no appreciable accession from immigration: also that while the crime-producing population (the Dominion Bureau of Statistics (1901) finding that males between twenty and thirty-nine contributed three major offences for

every one added by the rest of the population worked out a standard giving to each such male the weight of three, while others counted as one) increased 180% since 1901 yet crime has risen 450%. Mr. Devere Allen writing recently from England says, "It is worth noting that in this country, long ravaged by unemployment, and possessing slums and mining villages that are the talk of the world for dire, distressful living, prisons are being sold or broken up. In England and Wales where the population has increased normally since 1913, the prison population has decreased from 18000 to 11000. Drunkenness declined last year in England by more than 3,600 cases". Parallel that with the records of our Dominion Bureau of Statistics 1914-17 when crime decreased 160% -- we were a law abiding country -- it started upward again toward latter part of 1917. It is beyond our limits here but might not one suggest that in the very nature of the case, in those years we were sacrificing our all and the very force of circumstances made us harness ourselves to the task of decency. I think that accounts for us in those years and England at the present time. However it is in relation to immigration that we are to consider crime. We have quoted Canadian statistics, now let us see what the United States Commission on Immigration reported ---- "that there has no satisfactory evidence yet been produced to show that crime has increased by the foreign-born in proportion to the adult population". In this it was a case not of numerical population, but of adult against adult. To some extent there is justification in the charge that crime is spread by immigrants amongst the native-stock by underbidding in unskilled labor. The wages are so low and income so insufficient that one underbids and throws another into unemployment. Long hours, hard work, poor housing and troubles breed discouragement, discontent and all this is apt to foment trouble or tempt to commit crime. The alarming numbers rallying to the "Red" propaganda in our mining centres and industrial

percentage of prostitutes come from immigrant women in the cities. The concentration in these huddled and badly-quartered sections is in no small measure responsible for this most revolting and most pitiful of all crimes. The United States Immigration Commission dealt very forcibly with the aspect of wages paid -- for this has a great deal to do with this whole question of crime. They reported a growing conviction that the demand coming from big employers was responsible for the more recent immigration being industrial. The inference is these wanted cheap labor. After discussing this at great length the report stresses the fact that the foreign born worker is the lowest paid. The figures given are:-

Native born of native father	\$ 14.37	per week
" " " foreign "	13.89	" "
Foreign " " " "	11.92	" "

By nationalities:-

Albanian	8.07	Norwegian	15.28
Greek	8.14	Scotch	15.24
Portugese	8.12	Irish	15.13
Syrian	8.10	Swedish	15.36
Turk	7.05	Welsh	22.02

The averages for each nationality, as compared with the average for all class present quite an interesting study in contrast. But perhaps, quite as interesting is the following compilation of averages, for whole-country, and for city-dweller, per family

Annual Income

<u>Family</u>	<u>For Whole Nation</u>	<u>For Cities</u>
Native born of native father	\$865	\$595
" " " foreign "	\$866	\$526
Foreign " " " "	\$704	\$385



While that report was published at Washington in 1910 yet it shows the relation, if the actual amounts of money have fluctuated since.

Before leaving the discussion on Crime one might refer to the statement previously made that the native born of foreign parents produce the majority of criminal cases. For purposes of estimating according to nationality, a report was made on the basis, ratio of convicts to the number of males of twenty-one years and over according to the nationality (Canadian statistics) and these are the ratios of delinquency:-

Italian	38	per	10,000
American	22	"	"
French	21	"	"
Austro-Hungarian	10	per	10,000
Russian	9	"	"
German	9	"	"
British	8	"	"
Scandinavian	7	"	"
Canadian	7	"	"
British Isles	7	"	"
Chinese	5	"	"
Other foreigners	10	"	"

But many cases were the beating up of one countryman by another who took the law into his own hands not having been brought up amidst the sanctions and safeguards of British law and to which he had not learned to adjust himself. For instance:- A native leader agent brings out some of his fellow-countrymen who are green, know no English and are without friends to advise them. He gets a "hold" on them, they are or become indebted to him and he places a status of compulsory service upon them. He arranges with a labor agent to supply so many men and these men go to work. He takes advantage of their ignorance of conditions here and exploits them. Well, if one of them discovers this -- and

they all do sooner or later -- he (the discoverer) proceeds to mete out his sense of justice to the agent and in the embrace where frequently knives are wielded with dexterity and precision, one or both may be injured necessitating medical attention. Court proceedings follow. Or again:- On the whole immigrants are thrifty and some save even at the expense of their health. They distrust our banks but know that their money is not safe if kept on their premises. One of their own is a banker. (A walk along Queen Street West, will reveal these bankers and ticketsellers, or some are banker and grocer). This individual is incompetent, mixes his clients' money with his own, gambles with all, or lends it unwisely and either through wilful fraud or incompetence finds himself unable to reimburse his patrons when they desire to withdraw their savings. The good old-fashioned method of obtaining satisfaction by peeling off one's coat, rolling up his shirt-sleeves and clenching his fists can easily be visualized under such circumstances. But our friends from the old world lend color to their fray by weapons and the break-up of the quarrel is one seriously wounded or both escorted to the magistrate's desk in the police patrol. The crime is thus not a pre-meditated action calculated to wrong anyone or inflict uncalled for and surprising attack upon any one. On the whole it is well for us to stick to the records of convictions for major offences and to recall the words of the United States Commission .....

"no satisfactory evidence to show that crime has increased by the foreign-born in proportion to the adult population."

Unemployment. Since the question of wages entered into the aspect of crime, it links the two things with unemployment, and we might pause a few moments over unemployment. Low wages and unemployment drive the women of the foreign element to take work home and do it. It is mostly clothing and is received through contractors who obtain it from the manufacturers. This is known as "Sweat-shop" and many of the Unions have advised the purchasing public that garments

bearing certain labels guarantee the buyer he is obtaining a piece of clothing manufactured in a factory complying with sanitary regulations and employing men paid a living wage. It is worth while to pay more for an article with a guarantee like that, knowing the employees are protected, than to buy some cheaper makeshift in all probability the product of "sweat shop" methods.

The working class have not as a whole received their just share of the increasing wealth of their productions. The purchasing power of the dollar has not kept pace with the producing power, that is, labor registered a gain of 3.8% in its purchasing power while the output of industry gained more than 9% (1927 according to Census Bureau of United States). In 1921 immigration was curtailed due to economic depression in Canada: this year the new Minister of Immigration and Colonization has done the same thing. The restriction of immigration tends to give the labor in the country a chance to rise and the social status of the working class will probably rise as well.

There remains to be considered the fact that there are people living in "pockets" separated from those of other races or nationalities, people who are manifesting customs and habits, with social and economic backgrounds belonging to not only another land but to another century. Mr. Robert England in his book "The Central European Immigrant in Canada" (Macmillan Co. 1929) is quite anxious about this state of affairs. Let me quote: "We have to face the menace of old people in a new land, settled in solid blocks, unable and sometimes unwilling to assume the implications of Canadian citizenship, coming into contact with pioneer conditions and such external in Canadianism as may give false freedom and result in paganizing life: the menace of a new land to old people, disillusionment of dreams, new standards, new freedom, a new tyranny of unneighborliness, a new language,

spiritual cleavage between young and old, and consequent breakdown of parental authority. Yet, if we leave our New-Canadians undisturbed in their old customs and ways, neglect their education, deny them the password to our civilization, the power of understanding our language, the ability to assimilate our culture, it will result one day in a vastly increased electorate, incapable of understanding our needs, hammering at the door of our civilization, demanding freedom and rights colored by their memories, traditions, and restricted lives." One is so well-versed in the conditions obtaining in these settlements of Ruthenians, of Slavic peoples, of Doukhobors etc. through the many interesting articles written after visits to these colonies by such men as Prof. C. B. Sissons, Exeter Hall and others, that little need be said about them. The question is how are we going to reach these people and how can we gauge our accomplishment after endeavoring to reach them. Well, there are many yard-sticks. There is the statistical yard-stick, there is the ecclesiastical yard-stick: there is the personal yard-stick: there is the social welfare yard-stick. I think beginning with the last -- the social welfare we will soon be able to measure in terms of personal disciples to these peoples (of their own) and the opening once made the statistics will record Canadians. But this is already begun. Prof. W. G. Smith lays great stress on the teachers in these areas. He says, "While giving rudimentary instruction to the children the teacher is preparing the way for becoming the guide, the philosopher and friend of the family. The farmer needs seed, or clothes, or machinery, but cannot read the catalogue: he desires to know the report of the markets but cannot read the newspaper. In the catalogue he may see a picture of the thing he wants but cannot write a letter of obtain it. The teacher age may become the clearing house, in the widest sense of the term, for the community." "Was it just an isolated case that one teacher was surprised to find her

cheque for three month's salary written for \$250 instead of \$225? She had been offered a higher wage by a neighboring school section and declined. In explanation of the increased amount of the cheque the secretary-treasurer said, 'We heard you offered ten hundred dollars in Z--, and yet you stay here. We not let our teacher lose one hundred dollars, we pay ten hundred dollars, too.' " ----"What is needed is a new crusade of young Canadians in whom the fires of patriotism burn, who will man the outposts of Canadian Nationality. In time of war a half-million of our best were enlisted in a gigantic struggle of destruction. In times of peace can there not be a brigade or two of equally ardent spirits who will engage in the work of construction? The final completion of the immigration task is a great wave of education carried on by patriots who will prepare the highway of the future. Our forefathers came into these primal wildernesses and laid the foundation of a new nation. Shall their descendants fail in erecting the superstructure?" One teacher testifying before a Convention in Manitoba told of the young folks going out into the world from a Ruthenian Colony, thoroughly Canadianized in habit and speech and of influencing their friends in other districts. The home life and housing conditions soon changed when the pupils emerging from the public school took their places as young people. The parents soon caught the spirit and that happy relation between youth and age, so often frustrated, was preserved. This I believe is the only method. These communities will be influenced by their own people who have caught the gleam of a brighter day through the young who have been influenced. It is the social service and the personal yard stick we must use in measuring our work here. Let me again quote Professor Smith, at length:-

"In the Insinger municipality west of Yorkton, Sask., there was a district fifteen by eighteen miles, and containing five hundred families of whom four hundred were Ruthenian,

and only twenty-one British. Though the Ruthenians had been in the district for a period varying from eight to fifteen years, and each family averaged a quarter section of land, there were only about thirty-five acres per family cultivated, and they were living as they had been in Russia and Austria. The Mission Board of the Methodist Church made a grant of \$5,000 for the establishment of a settlement house which would do community work, and the Board selected a young man who had been for eleven years principal of school at Theodore. He was Canadian-born, had been trained in Ontario, and understood Ruthenians. In one winter he conducted day and night classes and taught both old and young, so that many who in autumn knew no English by spring were able to recite and sing in the English language at the closing exercises of the term. The following year saw even greater efficiency and progress, and then came the scourge of influenza. Physicians were few and far between, the one in the neighboring town east was stricken ill, and the one in the neighboring town west died. Obtaining what medicine he could at Theodore, and using to the utmost his scanty store of medical knowledge, the community teacher went in a car from door to door throughout the settlements with food, medicine, advice, working alone in a district extending seventy miles. But even his giant's strength gave way, and influenza made rapid conquest of a depleted constitution. After a few days of delirium during which he kept repeating, 'the foreign problem can be solved,' Peter Yemen joined the ranks of the immortals.

'There's a legion that never was listed,

That carries no banner nor crest,

But split in a thousand battalions

Is breaking the road for the rest.' "

19

So there is hope for even those communities which seem to have excluded and discouraged all attempt on the part of

19

These excerpts are from Prof. W. G. Smith's "Study in Canadian Immigration" pp 388-400

Canadians to welcome and Canadianize them, even such as the Doukhobors, the old conservative type of Mennonites, and Hutterites, for are not the neglected Ruthenian colonies fast disappearing through visitation from their countrymen who have been reached in other Ruthenian settlements? is not there the sign of an approach to a common basis in the rising up of such men as Peter Veregin among the Dukhobors? and are the Mennonites not largely finding that they cannot remain anti-social for in this great expanse none can live unto himself? We are beginning to realize that our civilization cannot be superimposed to the exclusion and forgetting of everything that our newcomers have. Rather there is on the horizon, as evinced by the Great West Festivals, the glorious fact that the brightest and most progressive of all these peoples have seen the best that we have to offer in our civilization and they are matching it by the best that they have to contribute so that on the rise of the sun tomorrow Canada will see the dawn of a new and better day more glorious and happy than has been the past.

The position and contention of many, mainly that group led by the Right Rev. Geo. Exton Lloyd, Lord Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Saskatchewan is the quota. His testimony last winter before the Saskatchewan Provincial Immigration Inquiry Commission was broadly, to the effect that we should establish a quota, the majority British, the large number of the remaining newcomers to be from the Scandinavian countries, a few from certain other European parts and a halt to the southern and eastern immigrants. He felt the criminal tendencies of these latter peoples far overbalanced any good that they might be to the future of our land. Dr. T. C. Routley, general secretary of the Ontario Medical Association advanced a suggestion that we should create a "National Board of Population" with say a definite twenty-five year policy.

The position assumed by such suggestions, as illustrated by the two above examples, is that the Dominion Department is not conscientious and not co-operating sufficiently with the provinces. Further, it assumes, contrary to all present day statistics that the trouble is with the coming into our land of the incoming immigrants rather than the problem of assimilation both of those already here and those to come. To say nothing of the earlier part of this decade, the last few years' report certainly has been a marvel to those who have investigated, of the fine spirit in which countries are dealt with and so cautious has been the policy of our officials that one prominent man in the public life of Canada has criticized the administration as more anxious to reject than to recruit.

The blame has been as much attaching to us as to our newcomers oft-times but thanks be to an awakening public intelligence the better day is dawning. We recognize in the immigrant the lineal descendant of the forgotten pioneer and like the pioneer he will achieve competence and prosperity. If our young people ~~would~~ only devote a few years of their lives in teacherages on our western plains to give instruction in the finer arts of living, instruction on how to save the children and to maintain a healthy home, how to use powers as a free Canadian, the immigrant would rejoice and we would soon see the noon of the new day.