

This table shows that whilst the total number of immigrants in 1907, viz. 277,373, exceeded even the large figure of 262,469 already quoted for the fiscal year 1907-08 there were for the calendar year 1908 only 148,700 immigrants, a decrease of 128,673, or about 46 per cent. This large falling off has been generally attributed to the operation of the new regulations made under the Immigration act of 1906, which have for their object the exclusion from Canada, especially during the winter months, of unskilled immigrant arrivals that are either wholly destitute or that have no means of obtaining a livelihood upon reaching their destination in Canada. These regulations include money qualifications of \$50 or \$25, according to the period of the year, and the certification in London of emigrants on assisted passage. Every country mentioned in the table shows a diminution in the number of immigrant arrivals in Canada, excepting the United States, which shows an increase of 526.

Decrease of
immigration
in 1908

On March 5 the Deputy Minister of Labour proceeded on a mission to England to confer with the Imperial authorities on the subject of the restriction of immigrants to Canada from British India and other oriental countries. As the result of this mission measures have been concerted with the British and Indian governments which appear to have been effectual in arresting the migration to Canada of natives of India and orientals who owing to the climatic and other conditions of their local environment are entirely unfit for life in Canada.

Oriental
immigration.

The Dominion Lands act, chapter 20, revises and consolidates the laws and regulations affecting the disposition of the public lands, and contains new provisions likely to have an important effect in encouraging the settlement of agricultural areas. By section 27 any homesteader may, upon certain conditions and in townships designated for the purpose, acquire the right of pre-emption of any available quarter-section lying alongside his homestead or separated therefrom by only a road allowance; or, by section 28, where owing to the absence of available land he is unable to purchase a quarter-section adjoining his homestead, he may obtain entry for the purchase of any other available quarter-section open for entry. The fee payable on entry is fixed at \$10, and the purchase price at \$3 per acre, payable in instalments. The number of entries for pre-emptions made between September 1, the date when these new provisions came into operation, and December 31 1908 is 12,280, of which 8,417 are in Saskatchewan and 3,863 in Alberta. The number of entries for purchased homesteads under section 28 of the act during the same period is 679, of which 520 are in Saskatchewan and 159 in Alberta. The total number of ordinary homestead entries for the calendar year 1908 is 38,559, as compared with 29,414 in 1907 and 42,012 in 1906. All the entries in 1908 were made in the Northwest provinces with the exception of 440 in British Columbia.

Dominion
lands and
homestead
entries.