

CHAPTER VI.—IMMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION.*

CONSPECTUS.

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Section 1.—General Information.

While the great majority of French Canadians can trace their descent to ancestors who left the Old World 250 years ago or even longer, most English-speaking Canadians are comparative newcomers both to Canada and to this continent, though a considerable number of the United Empire Loyalist families had been resident in the old colonies for generations before they moved north to establish English-speaking settlements in what is now the Dominion of Canada. During the middle third of the nineteenth century, a great English-speaking migration entered the Province of Ontario and made it, for the first time, more populous than the sister Province of Quebec, thus bringing about the agitation for representation by population. Thereafter, immigration slackened until the dawn of the twentieth century brought another flood of settlers to the newly-opened territories of the great Northwest, resulting in an increase of population between the censuses of 1901 and 1911 greater than the combined increase of the three decades from 1871 to 1901.

Immigration during the second decade of the twentieth century promised, at its commencement, to be even greater than during the first. In its first three years no fewer than 1,107,914 persons entered Canada for purposes of settlement, but the War of 1914-18 dried up the sources of immigration in the United Kingdom and Continental Europe, where every able-bodied man was needed for the defence of his country. Immigrant arrivals from the United Kingdom in 1917 numbered only about 3,000, as compared with 157,000 in 1913; immigrant arrivals from other countries, except the United States, numbered less than 3,000 in 1915, as compared with approximately 146,000 in 1913. Since the War of 1914-18, immigration to the Dominion has never approached that of the pre-war period.

Assimilation of Immigrants.†—A side-light on the question of the assimilation of immigrants is shown by Table 1, the statistics of which are taken from Volume I of the Census of 1931. These figures show the racial origins of the population, by country of birth, and the leading races with which males intermarry. The upper

* Revised under the direction of F. C. Blair, Director of Immigration, Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa.

† For further information on this subject, the reader is referred to Census Monograph No. 4, "Racial Origins and Nativity of the Canadian People", which may be obtained from the King's Printer, Ottawa, price 35 cents.