

## Graduation Prize Essay

### CANADIAN IMMIGRATION

The inhabitants of our Dominion, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Great Lakes to the Arctic Ocean, are heirs to a great wealth of natural resources. In spite of losses by fire the forest wealth of Canada is still the greatest in the world. In the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and Ontario, our vast areas of soft wood are suited chiefly for the manufacture of pulp, while the coastal regions of British Columbia are clothed with the stately sedars and Douglas firs. The mineral districts of Canada extend from Cape Breton to the islands in the Pacific and the Yukon region. These districts include the rich gold fields of Yukon and British Columbia, the valuable nickel deposits of Ontario, and the large asbestos mines of Quebec.

Nature has endowed Canada with most extensive fisheries. The temperature of Canadian waters is favorable for the production of fish of fine flavor and good keeping qualities; while the numerous inlets along the coast not only make feeding grounds for countless millions of fish, but also afford convenient havens for fishing vessels. "Canada is fortunate in having extraordinary natural facilities for communication by water." In some places navigation is obstructed by waterfall. However, short canals overcame the difficulty, and the falls afford electric power for lighting, traction, and manufacturing purposes.

Canada is, nevertheless, pre-eminently a farming land. Across our Dominion there stretches a country, three thousand miles long, and wider than France, adapted for the production of foods of superior quality. The resources of the mixed farming districts of the Maritime Provinces, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia must also be considered. In addition to these natural resources, the geographical position of Canada is favorable to the extension of export trade to Europe and the Orient.

All these endowments of nature have been bestowed upon Canada; then why is this country less prosperous than the Republic to the south of us? One answer is readily found in the fact that these resources are, to a great extent, left undeveloped. The mineral wealth of Canada has scarcely been touched as yet. A large part of Canada has never been prospected. Vast areas of rich farming and timber land remain unoccupied, and are controlled by the Federal and Provincial Governments. The present population of Canada is inadequate for the development of these natural resources. Instead of supporting less than nine millions of people, Canada is capable of supporting without difficulty twenty thousand.

At present Canada might be likened to a motor truck dragging an immense load up a steep hill. The load is her debt, which must be lightened if she would avoid a great financial disaster. The national debt, which at the time of Confederation was about ninety million dollars, has increased to such an alarming extent that in 1922 it was estimated to be almost three billion dollars; while in the following year it was increased by another fifty