

former home for the support of his family or to aid them in following him. The valuable element is the able-bodied immigrant himself as a means of increasing production. The value of a healthy slave used to be eight hundred or a thousand dollars. Thus every immigrant ought to be worth that much to this country. But this is so only if he is honest, willing, and able to work.

Immigration must certainly have some social as well as economical effect on a country. The influx of thousands of persons of different nationalities and often with foreign languages would seem to endanger the social uniformity of a community. Immigrants are often largely represented among the criminal and dependent classes. In large cities, such as Winnipeg, immigrants of foreign language tend to form separate communities of their own. Nevertheless, the process of assimilation goes on very rapidly. Newcomers feel the influences of environment, the most powerful of which are the common school education, participation in political life, and the general influence of established customs and constitutions.

About ten yearss ago a large number of Galician immigrants were brought into Canada and settled in the vicinity of Winnipeg. Some of our citizens protested against bringing into the country so many people who were totally unlike Canadians in manners of living and language. At the time it almost seemed as if their protests were justified. To one looking at these bearded men and sun-bonneted peasant women with their uncouth clothing and their dull, joyless, almost resentful appearance, caused by centuries of oppreassion, it seemed impossible that they would ever become true Canadians. At the present time the Galician settlement consists of row after row of little white cottages, each on its own narrow strip of land and each strip fronting on the river. The men and women who dwell in these neat houses have cast off their foreign clothing, and dress as Canadians, although some of the women still retain their sun-bonnets; while the younger generation, taught in Canadian schools, have imbibed the Canadian ideals. Moreover, with wages at about three dollars a day, each of these Galicians is worth practically a thousand dollars a year to Canada in swelling its production.

One of the most prosperous settlements of Manitoba is the Icelandic community of Firnli; yet when the Icelanders first arrived in Winnipeg many of them slept under the side walks, because for some reason or other, the Immigration Hall could not be used and they could not afford to pay for their lodging. A large number wintered in tar-papered shanties built on vacant lots, until they could move out to their farms in the spring.

Although these Galicians and Icelanders are rapidly becoming true Canadians, still the Canadianizing of the vast numbers of pre-war immigrants from southern and eastern Europe is a problem both in the agricultural districts of the west and the cities of the east. The Chinese immigrants are more difficult to assimilate than those of any other race. In order to restrict this class of immigration an Act was passed in 1885 which provided for the levying of a head tax of fifty dollars. This tax was increased to one hun-