

1st Prize  
The Royal Empire Society.

Essay Competition.

Class A.

Subject:- In what way could the smallness of population within the overseas Empire be corrected? Could this be best remedied

- (a) by State-aided emigration, or otherwise, from Great Britain, or
- (b) transferring population from congested areas within the Empire?

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### Summary:-

The European races are not reproducing themselves and are in peril unless something is done to raise the reproduction rate.

The dominions are capable of absorbing large numbers of immigrants from Great Britain.

Attitude to immigration.

A large number of emigrants will be available from Britain after the war.

Ways to bring immigrants to a country:

(1) Chartered Company.

(2) Juvenile schemes.

(3) Infiltration.

(4) State-aid.

Attitude towards State-aid.

Canada.

South Africa

Australia & New Zealand.

The possibilities of transferring population from congested areas within the Empire - India.

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"..... How is it going to be possible to rebut the prevalent and growing criticism of other envious and overcrowded countries that the British race are 'dogs in the manger,' neither utilizing their own sparsely populated heritage, nor allowing them to do so, when no serious or farsighted attempt is made to fill the empty spaces of the Empire's most attractive and easily developed territory."

[From an address by Lord Bledisloe - Times, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1936.]

X About 1927 Italy began a policy to increase the number of births. To do this she taxed bachelors and married couples with small or no families and encouraged larger families by family allowance and preference over others. Germany also followed the example of Italy but in addition granted marriage loans. In Germany the scheme was successful while Italy obtained the direct opposite a decrease in the number of births.

Today it is becoming conventional to speak not of the birth rate but of the reproduction rate. The reproduction rate is the average number of girl children that are born to women between the ages of fifteen years and forty five. If the number who survive to have children of their own is taken the term used is the 'Nett Reproduction Rate,' but if the total number irrespective of whether they survive or not is taken into account it is the 'Gross Reproduction Rate.'

In nearly every European country the nett reproduction rate has fallen below one. This means that the population is failing to reproduce itself and that a serious decline in numbers is inevitable unless there is an immediate

increase in the birth rate. In England after 1870 the reproduction rate began to ~~decline~~ steadily until today it is .86 which is about one third of the previous level. If the present rate continues it will ultimately mean the population will decrease by .14 every generation.

This trend shows, if the smallness of population in the overseas empire can be remedied by emigration from England or other European countries, such as Norway or Sweden, that although the numbers are increased it will only be temporarily, as if these emigrants are not reproducing themselves the numbers will soon begin to decline. In a few generations the situation would again be the same unless there goes hand in hand with any emigration from these countries with a deficient reproduction rate a scheme to encourage larger families and so bring the net reproduction rate to one.

England and these other European countries which are likely to furnish emigrants could well follow the example of Germany in this respect and give generous marriage loans and grants to encourage larger families. New Zealand is one of countries in the world with a net reproduction rate of over one. Although other British peoples have allowed their reproduction to fall below the replacement level, New Zealand has managed to remain on the safe side of the fence. This could very well be attributed to the advanced social legislation of the Social Security Scheme. After the war when the Beveridge Plan is brought into action it will probably be found that the reproduction rates

will increase naturally because the population will have a greater feeling of domestic security.

All the Dominions are capable of absorbing large numbers of immigrants from Great Britain, but in the past the attitude of the Governments has been against a policy of immigrating large numbers of settlers. This attitude is brought about partly by many past failures of schemes involving large sums of c/ money. A scheme to send miners to Canada in 1928 and another the 3000 Families Scheme were not very successful. Another, the Australian Loan Agreement aimed at settling 6000 British families on farms in Western Australia, but after the slump only ten percent of the 4000 families settled were able to remain on the land.

The attitude of New Zealand and Australia towards immigration has been described as selfish. The majority of the people have been hostile to immigration probably through ignorance of the subject. Labourers have looked upon it with suspicion and disbelief, thinking that every immigrant adds to the unemployed or puts another out of his job. This fallacy seems now to be dying and the majority is beginning to realise the need for immigration. Australia is already making preparations for post-war immigration and New Zealand should not be far behind. Co-operation between the Dominion Governments and Great Britain would enable many settlers to be transferred to the underpopulated Empire spaces. Immigration is hardly the word to express transition from the United Kingdom to the other parts of the Empire. It is only a change from ~~change from~~ one part of Empire to the

other. It can be called a redistribution of population, a change of scene from one "England" to another, not a form of exile. There will be no loss to Britain in the long run as both parties are working for the good of the Empire.

A large number of emigrants will be available in Britain after the war, as conditions will be changed very much. It is thought that after the war the monopoly which Britain has so far maintained in the cotton industry will cease and give place to United States of America, India, China & Egypt. The iron and steel industries will also fall a poor second to America, German and perhaps Sweden & Canada, while the coal supplies are also becoming a problem. Britain's mercantile <sup>main</sup> will will also fall second to United States <sup>as</sup> and the American war building programme is greater than Britain's. Another factor which would mean that Britain would not need so much shipping is the return to agricultural pursuits making her more self-sufficient than before the war. These declining industries together with the ex-servicemen waiting to be placed in jobs would leave a big surplus which could be emigrated to the Dominions.

There are many ways in which immigrants could be brought from Great Britain. The first is by Chartered Company. A body of men with capital form a company, and buy up a block of land or build a factory, then bring out the workers and labourers to develop their scheme trusting that their money will be regained out of future profits. These companies or even the governments could bring some of Britain's industries, lock, stock and barrel to the Dominions thus balancing the population and much competition. Would not

the woollen factories be much better in New Zealand and Australia where the wool is? Instead of shipping and reshipping the wool. Or some of the steel and ship-building yards in Canada whose deposits of metals are varied and great and which the war is helping to develop. The chartered company run by public authority or board rather than a few men would be a good idea and <sup>could</sup> bring many immigrants to the Empire from Britain. British investments in the Dominions should be encouraged so they would help to develop them a great deal.

Another way is the bringing of children to the Dominions. A large percentage of the refugee children who come to us during the war will return to the country which has adopted them as permanent settlers. The Fairbridge Farm Schools are a successful way to introduce children into a country and schemes such as this could bring large numbers of war-orphans and others from the English orphanages. The bringing of large numbers of young people would be desirable but will probably not be allowed by the British Government on more than a small scale, as it is "picking the eyes" from the British population. Immigration schemes will probably have to include all ages and types, not the best of the land.

In the past the most important method, and practically the only one, of emigration from Great Britain to the Empire has been by infiltration. By this method small numbers are able to settle each year, but unfortunately in some years more return to Britain than leave. The United States of America is a good example

of how a country can become populated by infiltration on a large scale. Although this method could never be used throughout the Empire on such a large scale the restrictions should be loosened and infiltration be allowed to proceed side by side with other schemes.

If a country wishes to bring immigrants to fill its empty spaces it should not try to shrink the costs, as no scheme can hope to succeed without ample monetary support. The greatest sources of money in a country are in the hands of the Government and if the people are behind their Government, lack of money should not be a barrier to immigration. The Australian 5000 Families Scheme involved a sum of £34,000,000, and the British Government at one time voted £45,000,000 over fifteen years to be devoted to immigration. Up to the present Dominion state aid has been limited to reductions of passages. This is not enough. Britain in the past has offered to share the cost of the immigration schemes and would probably be prepared to do so again. Each Dominion should get up a 'Ministry of Immigration' backed by ample funds, and also send a representative to an 'Empire Immigration Council' in London, to advise the 'Minister of Immigration' with on the spot information. One of the first duties of a department like this would be an extensive propaganda campaign to convince the people of the necessity to immigration. State-aided immigrants could be used to stimulate industries and also in new industrial and land schemes and public works. No scheme

can hope to be successful without the consent of the Government. <sup>the scheme</sup> ~~which~~ <sup>which</sup> would mean Government supervision and <sup>as</sup> would have more hope of succeeding with some degree of state aid. <sup>as</sup> the Government would ~~the~~ keep a watchful eye on proceedings to ensure her investments were secure, and that the scheme did not begin to slide.

Before the war the policy of the Governments was not to use State-aid to assist emigrants. They argued that an immigration scheme should not be to assist those who are doing badly, but to help those who are doing well to go and do better. If a man was not doing well enough to pay for his own transportation he would be a debit to the country. State-aid to women and juveniles was given in a small way but not to able-bodied men. This must change. If the Dominions wish to bring in enough immigrants to solve the problem the Governments must assist many of the immigrants and create their openings and opportunities. An immigration scheme is judged as successful if the majority of the immigrants are doing better than they were at home. It takes all types to make a community, and if the balance is to be kept all types must be brought in and many will need assistance. Where else but from the State?

Canada is a land of promise for emigrants and offers more than any other dominion. In the future Canada will be recognised as one of the powers. The war has developed her vast resources beyond anything that could have been conceived in pre-war years. Canada is rich in minerals such as nickel, asbestos, cobalt, copper, aluminum and has large deposits of Iron ore and coal. Many of England's steel industries could be carried on easily in Canada. Canada has unlimited water power and a new power plant generating

2,000,000 volts is devoted to the production of aluminium. The area of Canada is thirty times that of Great Britain, twice that of India and is 2.7% of the total area of the Empire. Only about one fifth of the potentially agricultural land, including pastoral, is under cultivation, and the forests are some of the largest in the world. In post war reconstruction prefabricated wood products will play a large part. Fish supplies in Canadian waters are also unlimited. The rate of infiltration into Canada has probably been kept down by the attractions offered by the United States. In all probability the Americans will disallow further immigration as <sup>their</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>country</sup> is fully populated. A willing Canada could take several millions of immigrants from Great Britain and Europe over a number of years.

The need for white population in South Africa where whites are a small minority is urgent. The white population has been slowly losing its <sup>grip</sup> on much of the property that it formally held. Experts think that increased white population of the right type would help to solve the poor white population problem, which is caused mainly by the cheap native <sup>labour</sup> and not make the situation worse as is generally thought. The native problem in South Africa is very great and more white population would help. South Africa attaches more importance to animal husbandry than field husbandry and is not suited for schemes involving large numbers for land settlement, but <sup>however, it</sup> is capable of taking many thousands of immigrants. ~~but~~ does not offer as much as the other dominions.

The 'down under' dominions are definitely

under populated and can house many more citizens. These Dominions are mainly English and English men feel as much at home there as in England. Australia is fast becoming industrialized, while New Zealand is also in a smaller way. Both countries can take agricultural settlers of which England should have many after the war. Quite probably women will always be employed on the land as the land girls have shown what they can do. England employs large numbers of these girls who after the war is over would be glad of the opportunity to become farm girls and later farmers wives in a glorious country like New Zealand.

The idea of transferring population from congested areas within the Empire, other than Great Britain, does not seem to hold much hope. The only country of any consequence within the Empire which is over populated is India. The two countries which are suited to take Indians are Africa and Australia.

The empty spaces of Northern Australia have a suitable climate but the 'white Australia' policy would not even allow this suggestion to be considered. But will nations such as India, which are over populated always respect the territorial integrity of lands such as Australia and their right to hold large thinly populated areas? Perhaps it was the very high reproduction rate in Japan which helped force her hand in this war. Two ways are open if the Australians decided to receive the Indians, turn the land over directly to the Indians or admit natives to exploit the land under the supervision of Australians.

The government of South Africa recently passed a Bill called 'The Trading and Occupation of Land Bill.'

The purpose of the Bill is to peg for three years the purchase of property by Indians while an inquiry is being held. Since 1921 the India population of South Africa has increased from 165,000 to 221,000 of which 82% are African born. ~~which~~ This is an alarming increase. The reason for the Bill is that in the Transvaal and Natal the Indians were purchasing property in European areas with alarming rapidity and gaining too great a hold over the white population. Gandhi at one time played a leading part in the struggle between the Indians and the Governments of Transvaal and Natal.

In Kenya there are large numbers of Indians and it is thought that a lot more could be settled there. Although there is much in the argument against bringing the Indians to Africa it would be a good thing if it could be accomplished. In Kenya the colour bar between the Indians and Negroes is not very great and the mixture would make a good race if the Indians were predominant. If a few millions of Indians could be taken to ease the population and the standard of living in India raised considerably prosperity would follow. ~~and~~ Experts say that prosperity and higher living are the main factors which control the reproduction rate and keep it low. This would prevent the population of India from rising any higher.

'He who will not when he may, when he will shall have nay.'

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