

Class A
1st Prize

Transcript
Class A Best
Prize

THE ROYAL EMPIRE SOCIETY.

ESSAY COMPETITION.

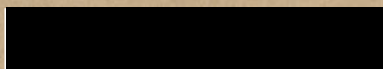
SECTION B A.

Lately concerned with the
Colonisation which is not improving in
a Barbaric way - but it has
to be a more and is generally
in English.

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NAME:- Jane Mayford.

DATE OF BIRTH:-



ADDRESS:- 40 Killburn Avenue, Berea, Durban, South Africa.

SCHOOL:- Durban Girls' College.

Practical Difficulties Which Discourage
Migration Among Commonwealth and
Empire Countries, and How they
can be Overcome.

Name : JANE MORFORD.

Date of Birth : 23rd October 1939.

Address : 40 Kilburn Ave,
Berea,
Durban,
South Africa.

School : Durban Girls' College.
Division : A.

Revised List of Headings.

Introduction.

Historic Background. Comparative easiness of migration.
Barbaric tribes. Boundaries. limits - sea. Search for food.
Present-day. Many difficulties. Racial, social and national.
Listed problems - accommodation, overcrowding, jobs, food,
growth of nationalism. carrying of diseases, economic, transport.
What migration - emigration - entails to-day.

Body.

Difficulties. I Race. Empire - many races. White self-appointed superior to blacks. Racial "pride and prejudice." Colour bar
Desirability - population difficulties. Where to send them a) Canada
b) Australia c) New Zealand d) South Africa.

Nationalism (broadened)

Religion

Vagrancy. (Check on vagrancy)

Accommodation. Food etc.

Medical etc. minor.

Solutions to Problems: prejudices. Indians in S. Africa - friendly - growth of understanding. Jamaicans.

Free trade. Industries.

Development Nigerian interior - Accommodation.

Co-operative farming.

Training in new countries.

Conclusion Summing up. racial differences.

Years.

Quote.

Five - co-operation.

Practical Difficulties which discourage Migration among Commonwealth and Empire countries and How they can be Overcome.

All through the ages man has cherished dreams of seeing for himself the lands across the seas. He has had visions of gaining large tracts of land, and developing them to gain food and clothing for himself. Many years ago barbaric tribes traversed the vast open spaces of Asia in search of new lands and more food. They absorbed and subjected the minor races with whom they came into contact and conflict. In those days the sea with its treacherous currents and frightening storms, was the barrier which hindered the migration of these vagrant tribes. There were then no clearly defined boundaries and no political barriers such as there are in the world to-day, and they did not, therefore, have to contend with many of the difficulties which nowadays discourage migration.

Under present-day conditions it is no longer possible for large numbers of migrants to move to and fro amongst nations. There are many difficulties which render large-scale migration well-nigh impossible. One of the main factors discouraging this type of migration is one of race. A certain Canadian paper stated the problem very plainly: "With respect to labour, colonial and immigration policies, one aspect, indeed in an international sense the most important aspect, has been ignored - race. At bottom, all these questions raise the problem of race." Other problems also arise, such as lack of accommodation, overcrowding, lack of jobs, food, growth of nationalism, carrying of diseases, economic difficulties, and lack of transport.

When men and women wish to migrate to-day the country to which they wish to emigrate has to know of what nationality they are, their political tendencies, their reason for migrating, and also whether they have a job awaiting them in their prospective home. Also testimonials are required from trustworthy sources to confirm the details of religion, race, and nationality previously given, and to state the nature of the prospective immigrant. After all these negotiations have been completed, the prospective immigrant is told whether he may or may not enter the country.

After this the immigrant has to spend much time obtaining his passport and much-needed visas. He is given too, a medical check-up, and if he is pronounced fit he is vaccinated, and allowed to leave for his new home as soon as he has arranged his accommodation in the country to which he is going, and has also booked his passage and had all the affairs concerning his estate and money seen to. All this preliminary is long, and arduous and somewhat costly, but it is also necessary.

Let us consider first the question of racial difficulties. The British Empire and Commonwealth extends over an extremely large portion of the earth's surface. Within the limits of its boundaries are many races - some of negroid - some of Indian - and some of European-stock. Amongst these peoples there is much racial pride and prejudice. All are proud of their own race, and do not want it tainted with the blood of another race. The white people especially have set themselves up as the superior race and subject those who have different coloured skins to many hardships and restrictions. The self-appointed superior race - the whites - wishes as far as possible to keep itself away from the inferior brown-skinned races around it. In nearly all of the Commonwealth countries there is some form of a Colour Bar. Migration of negroid and Indian races is therefore crushed as much as possible by nearly all the countries in the Commonwealth. South Africa for instance, unable to uproot deep-rooted prejudices is placing a bar on Indian migration into South Africa. No race has the right to use another race solely for its own benefit and as a source of labour, but ^{European} Commonwealth countries only use the negroids as a solution to their labour problems. Such an attitude naturally greatly discourages migration, and countries, over-crowded and desperately needing somewhere to send the overwhelming number of its inhabitants who have no room to live in, cannot send migrants to less-crowded Commonwealth countries, because the colour of their skin presents an unmountable barrier. As long as these prejudices continue migration within the Commonwealth can only be carried on with by very limited numbers.

Large-scale migration is very desirable when a small country has a large population. But the question, as always, is, where to send them? Canada, though a country of large open tracts of undeveloped lands has no wish to accommodate large numbers of immigrants. She feels that until her industries are more fully developed she cannot risk the enlarging her agricultural community, for fear that she will be unable to use up sufficiently well the extra abundance of raw materials. The immigrants she wishes to have from the United Kingdom are those which the United Kingdom can least spare - artisans and industrialists. In Australia too, economic difficulties discourage immigration, and again, it is the artisans that she needs more than the laymen. New Zealand of course, being so small, cannot take the risk of enlarging its population by migration. The South African policy is likely to discourage migration between herself and other Commonwealth countries, for few members of the Commonwealth wish to emigrate to a country which seems to wish to be left alone and out of the Commonwealth. The over-crowded United Kingdom desperately wishes to send some of its inhabitants to other countries, but she is unable to do so, because the very people she needs - young professional men and women, young artisans and young industrialists are the only people wanted by all the other Commonwealth countries.

Another factor discouraging large-scale migration or the migration of groups of men and women, is the fear of nationalism. To-day there is much distrust between nations and countries, and there are few nations willing to run the risk of introducing nationalistic or communistic sentiments into their countries. There is the ever-increasing fear of the growth of national groups which might upset the balance in the politics of their own nations.

Again, the intolerance of religion is another factor which somewhat discourages migration. Fortunately nearly all Commonwealth countries have religious toleration, and this difficulty is well on the way to being overcome completely.

Many Commonwealth countries will not accept migrants who have no specific job awaiting them, or relatives or friends with whom they are able to stay until they have

established themselves in their new country. The reasons for these precautions are fairly obvious. It would not be at all expedient for anyone if immigrants came into a country without any fixed abode. Vagrants are not desirable in any society, and crime thrives on lack of shelter, food, money and clothing. Besides which ~~immigrants~~ immigrants are encouraged to come into a country only if it is felt that their presence would in any way raise the standard of living in the country, and also if it would in any other way be of any benefit to the country.

Always prevalent is the fear of being unable to provide adequately for the proposed immigrants. Throughout the world, and certainly no less strongly in the Commonwealth, there is a growing shortage of food for their ever-increasing populations. In the Commonwealth however, the birthrate is for the most part decreasing, but the fear of the shortage of food still rages at the back of the minds of all concerned. This fear is one of the main reasons for creating the wish to immigrate, and one of the most pressing difficulties discouraging immigration. Yet the population map of the Commonwealth shows up that the main population pressure-points have great need of being relieved.

Other difficulties (minor difficulties) also arise to make migration still more difficult. These are personal difficulties such as lack of finances, medical, and practical difficulties. Each Commonwealth country naturally does not want to lay itself open to unnecessary illnesses and pestilences, therefore prospective migrants have to be carefully checked by medical authorities before they are allowed to enter the country. This naturally is an extremely important and sensible precaution, for many, coming from overcrowded conditions may very easily carry germs and illness. This precaution again, restricts the numbers of migrants that may leave their crowded homes to live in better conditions, and many, therefore, whom their country would like to send away to relieve home conditions are unable to leave. This difficulty could only be overcome by the institution of many more health centres, and resorts where possible migrants could be treated. In large-scale schemes the difficulties over finances can be overcome to a certain extent by the state, but individuals - who are more

encouraged as migrants, cannot overcome financial difficulties so easily. Perhaps a Commonwealth fund would help relieve the situation as far as these people are concerned.

The only solution to migration problems is the complete breaking down of all racial and national prejudices. All social and racial distinctions would have to be completely and utterly wiped out of existence. The late G.B. Shaw on being questioned some twenty to thirty years ago on his views of South African racial problems said that there would be no problem if all racial barriers were lifted, and we became a coffee-coloured race. Indeed, the breaking down of racial, social, and national barriers would be the salvation of the world, and would ultimately put an end to war. But this, as is so often the case, is infinitely easier said than done. For centuries - in fact all through history there has been strife and discontent due to ^{the} wish to become a separate, strong independent nation. Men have always striven to assert themselves, and it seems not only highly improbable, but also quite impossible that he should suddenly change and become willing to live in a co-existence with all other men.

In the British Commonwealth, unlike the French colonies, there exists very strong racial and national feeling. If in South Africa all Colour Bar was dropped, and all lived on an equal status of citizenship her problems would fall away. The Indians in South Africa are now presenting a problem and have this has stirred up ill-feeling within the Commonwealth - especially between India and South Africa. To aggravate matters a bar has been placed on Indian migration into South Africa. Perhaps, if these two countries could adopt a more friendly attitude, South Africa could help relieve the densely overcrowded situation in India.

Recently large numbers of Jamaicans migrated to Great Britain who before had never been seriously or personally affected by Colour Bar. The arrival of the Jamaicans caused great hue and cry in Britain, and immediately racial problems came into existence because of Colour Bar. If only we could dig up and get rid of our vain stupid feelings of racial discrimination large-scale migration within the Commonwealth could

be much facilitated, and the over-crowded, over-populated pressure-points in the Commonwealth could have their sufferings greatly alleviated.

If racial prejudices could be swept away, intermarriage would greatly simplify matters as far as large-scale migration is concerned, because fear of racial groups would also be lessened. The immigrants could be assimilated into the population of their new country, new, coloured-stock would be formed, and all would live far more happily and harmoniously together.

It is extremely doubtful that all national feeling and social discrimination could be overcome, but if, in the Commonwealth such a situation existed everyone would gladly accept migrants. Great changes within the Commonwealth could take place, for with the population more evenly spread out great strides could be taken and made in the advancement of industry and commerce. This breaking down of racial fears and discrimination is really the one really great factor which can ^{almost} completely overcome the difficulties of migration ~~we~~ which exist within the Commonwealth to-day.

This breaking down of racial prejudices is not of course the only & necessary change which must be brought about to facilitate migration. Free trade there must be within the Commonwealth, and provision must be made for the expansion of industry. At the moment one of the checks on migration is the fear that industries are not developed enough to cope with large-scale migration. If the home-country of the migrants could raise funds to simplify and alleviate matters in that direction far more could be done in the way of migration within the Commonwealth.

The difficulty of accommodation ~~to~~ could be overcome somewhat if the dark-skinned migrants were allowed to penetrate and develop the vast interiors of Commonwealth countries which are uninhabited by Europeans owing to climatic and geographical problems.

In India to-day the need for migration is urgent, and something must be done soon to alleviate their

(b) suffering. They do not wish to become an emigrant nation or
Commonwealth "a world emporium for unskilled labour." But they have only
two alternatives: to promote the growth of their industries and thus
draw away some of the surplus agriculturists, or else send out
large batches of Indians to other countries such as Nigeria. But,
again this problem arises - countries to which large batches
of Indians could be sent have Colour Bar and only wish
for artisans. The bulk of Indian migrants would be illiterate petty
agriculturalists - being the only migrants India could afford to
send. Again there is always prevalent the fear of nationalism
and communism which, very naturally, makes any country some-
what fearful of running the risk of accepting batches of
migrants from India. The only way to overcome this fear is
by overcoming all feeling of nationality and race. If in a
country, for example, South Africa, the European population,
native population, Indian population and Coloured population could
all combine, sinking all prejudices and racial pride, and
become one South African nation we would be far stronger, and
willing to accept Indian migrants - as many as could be accom-
modated.

Other problems also have to be overcome, such as
accommodation and food. Migrants could settle in under-
-developed territory apart from the original inhabitants. This
would, however, lead to the growth of national groups which
is undesirable. Inter-marriage could decrease this fear. As far
as the production of food is concerned, this problem could be
overcome if the government took it upon itself to see that
agriculture was intensified by the use of the latest methods
and machines. A more Greater co-operation between farmers and
groups of agriculturists could also help. ^{By this} This
co-operation in the beginning the nation would be much
benefited. Migration should be beneficial both to the country
sending out migrants, and to the country accommodating them,
for new ideas, new blood, and many other beneficial changes
will be brought about. If the effort is made, Commonwealth
countries would be far more able to understand, and share
in and help each other in their everyday problems.

Another suggestion has been put forward to facilitate migration: the young people of to-day should receive civil training in another country. By this it is hoped that after their service, these people would return to make their homes in the country where they were trained.

Again and again we notice therefore that the question of race and nationality forms the great fear restricting migration ^{within the} Commonwealth whose dominions and colonies have within them many different races and nationalities. This main obstacle can only be overcome by each individual rids his or her fears and prejudices. "These irrational fears are responsible for the failure of peoples generally to see in migration a beneficial, normal economic process without which world productivity cannot be increased."

Thus we see that there are many problems involved in migration, and these can only really be overcome by the whole-hearted cooperation of every individual in all the Commonwealth countries.

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