

CHAPTER XII

THE FUTURE OF IMMIGRATION— THE OLD

THE causes giving to the United States, during the past ninety years, more than twenty-eight million immigrants and a present foreign-born population exceeding thirteen million have already been discussed. Of all these by far the most dominant and conspicuous at work at the present time are the better opportunities here for industrial workers. Our higher wage is the magnet that draws them to this country. This is as true of those coming from the older as well as from the newer immigrant countries.

What are the economic tendencies now discernible that are to influence the movement in the future? Will the United States continue to receive for the next decade or two as large a volume of immigrants as the eight million and more that came to us the past ten years? Our inquiry will first concern itself with the economic tendencies affecting the older immigrant countries.

With the exception of Ireland and France, and possibly Norway, all the others—England, Scotland, Wales, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark—have rapidly growing populations constantly pressing upon