

home country. From the point of view solely of immediate economic gain our country has been profited by their coming. On the other hand, this profit is much greater in the case of a man of the same degree of productivity, provided he takes an interest in this country, invests his savings here, becomes identified with our institutions, and, expecting this to be the permanent home of himself and his children, plans his work and directs his hopes so as to bring about the best results for the future. In any attempt to make a distinction between the various races of immigrants or the various classes industrially, this factor of permanency should be considered a very important one. Naturally, aside from the question as to the physical or mental or moral qualities of the persons involved, their purpose modifies profoundly the results of their residence here.

ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH

Naturally the ease with which people adapt themselves to American institutions will depend largely upon the readiness with which they master the English language and the likeness of their home institutions to ours. For these reasons the immigrants of the old immigration—especially, of course, those from Great Britain, Ireland, and the British colonies—have a decided advantage.

The Need of a Detailed Study

So important are all these characteristics, as well as some others, that detailed consideration must be given to them in order to see how far the different races have adapted themselves to American ways, and what further measures need to be taken. This is attempted in the subsequent discussion.