

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### Conclusion

**T**HE rapid increase in the population of the world, which has been the most influential political factor during the last century, may be adjusted in the future as in the past by inventions and discoveries that increase the productive capacity of the land. This development may however be so slow, owing to the impoverishment and international rancour left by the Great War, that Europe is left for a time dependent on emigration as the only prompt and reliable cure for unemployment due to over-population. An adequate field for emigration from Eastern Europe is provided by the fresh advance of Siberia ; western and central Europe requires, to relieve its annual increase of population, an outlet overseas of from 300,000 to 500,000 emigrants a year, and therefore needs continued admission to the countries which have hitherto received the European overflow.

The British Isles, owing to the failure of its industries to continue their expansion adequately to the growth of population, needs an emigration of 100,000 a year to deal with the current increase ; and as the present excess over the number that the industries can maintain in comfort is probably over two million—Sir Charles Close says several million—an extra emigration of another 150,000 or 200,000 is required if our working population and field of employment are to be balanced within ten years or so.

The amount of European migration necessary varies with the economic prosperity of the world. Every increase in