

## Immigration and Expansion.

The number of immigrants coming to the United States last fiscal year numbered 311,878—an increase over the previous year of 82,579. This noteworthy gain is due chiefly to the business improvement which has taken place and has no particular relation to the advertisement given to the nation by the Spanish war. Past industrial revivals had an equal or greater stimulating effect upon immigration, as may be seen in the following record of yearly arrivals for 22 years:—

1899.....	311,878	1888.....	546,889
1898.....	229,299	1887.....	490,109
1897.....	230,832	1886.....	384,203
1896.....	343,267	1885.....	395,346
1895.....	279,948	1884.....	518,592
1894.....	314,467	1883.....	603,322
1893.....	502,917	1882.....	788,992
1892.....	623,084	1881.....	669,431
1891.....	560,319	1880.....	457,257
1890.....	455,302	1879.....	177,826
1889.....	444,427	1878.....	138,469

The periods of industrial prosperity and depression can be easily traced in these figures, and the period of unequalled prosperity from 1879 to 1883 was also that of largest immigration.

Last year's figures are still comparatively small, but the incoming tide did not begin to rise in a marked degree until near the end of the year. More than one-half of the year's arrivals came in the last four

months, and if the present rate is maintained, immigration for the current fiscal year will amount to nearly 500,000 arrivals.

Much has been said lately about the crowded condition of the United States and the need of annexing more territory, even though it be more populous, the idea seeming to be that we shall necessarily cut away a good deal of the population in effecting the annexation. We see from the above figures, however, that the impression prevails abroad that the United States is still about the roomiest place to be found within tolerable limits on the face of the earth. And so far as the north temperate zone is concerned, this is about the fact of the matter. It is at least far more so than any lands Mr McKinley has been trying to annex. If only Americans would emigrate to these annexed lands by the thousands and leave more room here to the masses of Europe, there would be rejoicing over there, no doubt. They know where the advantage lies, if we, in our present intoxicated state, do not.

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