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# HUMAN MIGRATION & THE FUTURE

A STUDY OF THE CAUSES, EFFECTS & CONTROL  
OF EMIGRATION

BY

J. W. GREGORY, F.R.S., D.Sc.

PROFESSOR OF GEOLOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

AUTHOR OF

"THE MENACE OF COLOUR," "THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY," "GEOLOGY OF TO-DAY"  
&c., &c., &c.

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## INTRODUCTION

**E**MIGRATION during the past century has been one of the most effective agencies in the betterment of the world. The population of the world is estimated as having been 700 million in 1800, and as being 1900 million to-day. Yet its inhabitants are maintained in greater ease and comfort than were one-third of the number a century ago. For years after 1820 the European industrial districts were tortured by poverty, and were seething with discontent ; and famine appeared inevitable owing to the waning yield of the exhausted soils. The situation was saved largely by emigration and the settlement of the surplus people of Europe in new lands which provided ample additional food and expanded markets, and so raised the supporting power of the famine-threatened countries. England and Wales, for example, were thus enabled to raise their population from 12 million to 38 million ; that of Europe has risen from 175 million in 1800 to 450 million in 1920.

The need of emigration has not yet ceased. The War has impoverished many countries, and populations which they could once support have become excessive. Large tracts of fertile, well-watered land, still lie idle ; and if they were tilled the overcrowded countries of the Old World might maintain an even larger population in still further improved conditions. For such areas to be adequately used emigration of Europeans is necessary to America, Australia, and parts of Africa, and of Asiatics from the densely to the sparsely peopled parts of Asia.

The value of emigration has, however, often been denied. According to one school it does not permanently relieve