



Immigrant School Children

“... They say there are 10,000 people here but only 2000 are civilized folks – of the others, the Austrians and the Finns of the majority.” Polly Bullard, Eveleth School Teacher, 1908.**

The multi-tiered society soon evolves on the Mesabi, with the older immigrants from Northern Europe on the top and the more newly arrived southern Europeans on the bottom.

“The Irish, English, Scotch and French Canadians have worked up from unskilled labor to skilled occupations in the mines,” one observer pointed out.

“Many Finns, however,” he noted, “seemed to thrive where hardships are most severe, but their progress in the mines is retarded by the surliness and radicalism.”

Among the newer immigrants the writer concluded, “there’s been very little advancement ... the Poles are good workmen but not all that ambitious ... the Croatians are lazy, indifferent workmen and are among the lowest in the industrial scale.” *unknown*

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<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnaitkin/ballbluff.htm>