

On the other hand, a country, especially a young country like Canada, sometimes feels that it is prospering if it has a substantial growth in population and can look forward to development. When we look at the facts with respect to immigration and emigration during the past two years, what is the conclusion to which we are forced to come? Is it not that our emigration has exceeded our immigration? Is it not true that we have been losing good Canadian citizens, their wives and their children, born in Canada and educated in our public and high schools? When they were on the eve of budding into full manhood or womanhood, they were forced to leave Canada for lack of opportunity, and they took with them those advantages for which Canada has paid, to exercise their talents and abilities and give their labour and industry in a foreign land. In their place we are receiving a fewer number of people, who have not been educated under our systems or according to our standards, and many of whom do not even speak the language that is generally used in Canada, and have to be Canadianized.

The Speech from the Throne a little later stated that unemployment has been greatly curtailed. I agree that that is perhaps true because of the tremendous exodus of our working population. About a month ago—I think it was a month ago to-day—I had an opportunity of discussing some public questions, particularly the question of protection, and I mention incidentally that during the past year approximately 200,000 Canadians had emigrated to the United States. I noticed that shortly afterwards a Minister of the Crown took occasion to deny absolutely my assertion. He referred to my statement in language that was quite unparliamentary, though, as he was outside of Parliament, he is not to be criticized for that. He said that no such number of people had left Canada during the past year.

May I call the attention of the House, and of the gentleman referred to, if he should happen to see it, to a statement on this subject which I think may be accepted as authoritative. One of the leading newspapers of Canada has made an investigation into this very matter and has obtained official statements from American authorities as to the number of people who have gone to the United States during the past year, and the conclusions of that authority—I refer to Mr. J. J. Short, of the United States Department of Immigration, at Detroit—may be summarized by stating that:

Nearly a quarter of a million Canadians entered the United States by way of Windsor and Detroit, there-

fore, during the year, 1923, and Mr. Short and his associates estimate that from 150,000 to 200,000 entered at other points, making a grand total for the year of more than 400,000—

people from Canada. I therefore apologize for the mistake I made a month ago in my public utterance in Toronto. I said that the number was only 200,000. I stand corrected. I will accept the statement of the United States official.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: What is the statement? What is the difference?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: The number is double what I said it was. Now, honourable gentlemen, that does not appeal to me as an evidence of prosperity. But if only unemployed workmen had gone to the United States and everybody now in Canada were employed, perhaps the Government might feel that we were in an easy position and that nobody was suffering at the moment. But I direct the attention of the House and of the Government to the fact that it was only a few days ago that the Ottawa papers regretted the fact that the official report from the Ontario Labour Department showed that there were 800 unemployed men registered at the bureau on Queen Street in this city, and on the same day, I think it was, one of the Montreal papers stated that there were 25,000 known to be out of work in Montreal.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Twenty-five thousand?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: That was the report last week. And it is only a few days since the Chief of Police in the city of Toronto forbade a parade of the unemployed men in Toronto who, with their families, are in want. I say to this House and to this country that unemployment is rife in Canada to-day, as it has been during the last three years, notwithstanding the emigration of 400,000 people in twelve months. If a census were taken to-day it would be found that there are substantially fewer people in Canada to-day than there were in 1921. Are those evidences of prosperity? If they are, then my judgment is certainly in error.

Apart from all that, however, if Canada was prospering if there were such glorious hopes ahead, would our agricultural interests be complaining as they are to-day? Is not the fact that the value of property of all sorts—crops, live stock, and everything our agricultural people own—has so seriously decreased in value, as well as in the selling price, is the cause of their serious discontent and disillusionment as to the promises made to