

as against 20 bushels per acre in Manitoba. Also—and this is, I think, very unimpressive—the total wheat crop of the United States for 1903 was 637,821,835 bushels, and was grown on less than 50 million acres. The wheat-growing lands of the United States are, we know, not what they were, and a comparison between the above 50 million acres and the enormous increase I quoted to you as the wheat-growing area in the Canadian North-west alone is very striking.

It is only a few months ago that I rode through much of this magnificent North-western country, now so rapidly becoming settled, from Edmonton in the extreme West some 400 miles across the prairies to Saskatoon on the South Saskatchewan—an undulating country sometimes covered with low bush, sometimes open prairie, but everywhere indescribably brilliant with the tints of autumn, the prairie still strewn with the bones of extinct buffalo herds. Into this country settlers are pouring from across the frontier and from the Motherland. The Canadian Pacific Railway is pushing on towards the Rockies; the survey parties of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway are out; construction camps and long lines of transport are everywhere to be seen; and at least one other great railway will ere long share with the Canadian Pacific the trans-continental traffic of the Dominion. Settlement, comfort, prosperity follow the railways. When I went to Canada in 1898 the official returns showed only 31,900 immigrants; in 1904 the number was 130,329. And I could go on multiplying examples of increasing population and increasing wealth in all directions. (Cheers.)

But what has been the effect of all this advance and prosperity on the minds of the people of Canada? Naturally, a growing self-confidence, the belief that they are becoming a factor in the life of the world, a pride in the country they are building up, a strong and growing feeling of Canadian nationality; and yet at the bottom of every heart lies admiration for British history, the pride of sharing in that history and that love for the flag, the deep meaning of which may perhaps scarcely appeal to those unacquainted with our great Imperial outposts. (Cheers.)

Possibly this development might have proceeded almost unnoticed until some sudden awakening had come upon us, had not certain momentous circumstances accentuated everything affecting the relations of Canada to the Motherland—the war in South Africa, followed by Mr. Chamberlain's proposals for preferential tariffs. (Cheers.)

The rush to arms of our dependencies to the assistance of the old country was at the time a purely sentimental assistance, given in answer to no pledge, inspired only by blood relation-