

raw material; the character of our imports is manufactured goods. The analysis made by the hon. member shows that for the year 1923, of our exports in wood and wood manufactures 64 per cent was raw material, and only 36 per cent goods partially or wholly manufactured; and in the sphere of non-ferrous metals, our exports were 77½ per cent raw material, and only 22½ per cent manufactured. In our imports the very reverse is the case. In wood and wood products only 27 per cent of the importation was raw material to be used for manufacture here and 73 per cent manufactured goods; and in non-ferrous metals 13 per cent of our importation was raw material and 87 per cent manufactured goods. I wonder if those facts sink into the mind of the Acting Minister of Finance. They illustrate the whole character of our trade.

Mr. ROBB: My hon. friend has been quoting the figures for 1923. Is he going on to bring the figures up to date, for 1924 and 1925?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I am coming to 1924. In 1924 our imports went down some \$93,000,000. When a country is struggling, its imports usually go down, but what accounts for the diminution? Does it show better figures would obtain in 1924? It shows that worse figures would obtain. In non-ferrous metals alone the reduction of our importations of raw or slightly manufactured goods, which are the goods used in Canadian factories where men are employed, was from \$145,000,000 to \$107,000,000, or almost half the whole reduction in importation, a reduction of twenty-eight and a fraction per cent in that one line of raw material alone, and the largest reduction in any other single sphere, that is, reduction applicable to manufactured goods, was six and a fraction per cent. This indicates that the story of 1924 is not any more heartening, indeed less so, than the story of 1923.

Now what would one expect to be the visible consequence of a course such as this? Let us look around and see. What are the consequences on railway traffic? The resolution which I move declares that a reversion of policy in this regard is necessary for the sake of traffic in Canada, and in order that in the transport of our goods there may be some prospect of a reduction of rates. Those consequences are revealed in the speech of the hon. member for West York (Sir Henry Drayton). As every hon. gentleman knows, the traffic carried by Canadian railways in 1924 went down by from nine to ten million tons. Of that reduction 2,300,000 tons is accounted for by a lower

crop return, a lower gross production of grain; for that the government is in no way responsible. The balance, though, is accounted for by something else altogether, an actual reduction of goods produced in our country, resulting in a reduction of traffic in Canada. I have before me some of the figures used by the hon. member for West York, and it is worth while, I think, placing them again on Hansard.

The hon. member showed that the reduction in iron ore tonnage was some 443,000 tons; in rails and fastenings, 50,000 tons; in pig iron and bloom, 275,000 tons; in iron pipe and structural iron, 639,000 tons; in castings, machinery and boilers, 144,000 tons; in coke, 266,000 tons; miscellaneous manufactures, 844,000 tons; lumber, timber, box shooks, staves and headings, 835,000 tons. In a word, the reduction varies from 18 per cent on rails and fastenings to 43 per cent on iron, pig and bloom, up as high as 72 per cent on iron ores. Thousands of railway employees lost their positions. This is some illustration of the effect of Canadian business in general of the contraction which has followed in years of either large crops in Canada or large prices in Canada from the policy pursued by this administration.

But these effects are visible in other forms in still more distressing degree. I come to that phase of our troubles which illustrates the results more poignantly than anything else. Canada always has had a struggle to maintain her population. Competing with a country of vast industrial development, that struggle has been no light one through the whole term of our history, but the conditions now, no matter how you may twist figures, no matter what letters you may read, no matter what allowances you may make, the conditions now as known to everybody are nothing short of appalling. I would like any hon. member of this House to go into any town in Canada, yes, I almost said into any countryside, and there address any good, upstanding Canadian, any intelligent person, and ask him what he has witnessed in the last two or three years in this Dominion. Ask him whether his neighbours are going south, or whether the southern people are coming here. Present to him all the statistics you like; read him the whole speech of the Minister of Labour—the minister shudders before the prospect—do all these things, and then ask him what he has actually observed, and what is going to be his answer? Go outside the walls of this House and speak to the Canadian citizen; ask him what is happening on his own street, ask him what is going on in

his nearest industry, ask him what indeed is taking place in his own family. Will he tell you of the boy who could not get work in the United States and came back here to get a fine job? How many cases of that kind would you discover? There is no use talking about 4,000 a month coming back from the United States. Let us find where the 4,000 are. Does the Minister of Labour meet them and shake them by the hand? I do not see them. The figures given from the records of the United States government by the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Arthurs) cannot possibly be controverted, if indeed, figures are necessary at all. There they make every allowance for everything that can be recorded in government statistics, and they show that in the fiscal year 1923 there was a net loss to Canada in favour of the United States of 102,520, and in 1924 a net loss of 181,194. These figures, relative to our population, are appalling. But they do not tell the whole story. We all know that under the American law the alien immigrant from Canada cannot get into the United States—he has to be smuggled in. We know, as well, that the Canadian born cannot get in himself save by paying a head tax and he avoids it; a large number surreptitiously enter that country. Those three classes have to be added together to get the total. I hesitate to give what the investigations which I have looked into show to be that total. You cannot get them from government statistics because there are no records of smuggled aliens, there are no records of the surreptitious entrance of Canadian-born. The *New York World*—which would not be described as a Tory organ, I hope—conducted an investigation into this question. The investigator went into the various centres of this country, calling on American consuls in particular, and obtained the best data he could, and anyone who reads his articles will see that he was very thorough in the work he did. In the issue of that journal of Wednesday, May 13, I read the following—but first of all this investigator expresses the belief that the earnings from smuggling aliens from Canada into the United States in 1924 would amount to \$10,000,000.

Mr. FORKE: Does not the right hon. gentleman think if possible that a number of those aliens who were smuggled into the United States came to Canada with that intention?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I think so, and the investigator says so. Of that I do not think there is a doubt, but I am not able to see how it throws very much sunlight—

Mr. FORKE: They did not leave Canada because things were not good in Canada. They left this country because they never intended to stay.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Why did they never intend to stay?

Mr. FORKE: Well, I suppose—

Mr. MEIGHEN: This article goes on to say that more than 106,000 European immigrants entered Canada last year.

Mr. WARNER: Do you think they should be counted among the population of Canada?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Well, they are lost to us. If they had stayed here they would be here.

Mr. WARNER: But supposing they were smuggled in here and went over there?

Mr. MEIGHEN: The hon. gentleman will see the significance in a minute if he listens to this quotation. They were not smuggled into Canada by any means; they were regularly entered immigrants that we paid high for and lost.

An hon. MEMBER: And that were counted in our immigration returns?

Mr. MEIGHEN: And were counted in our immigration returns. This article says: More than 106,000 European immigrants entered Canada last year.

The exact figures of the Immigration Department are 111,000 showing the investigator was right.

A considerable number were contraband aliens actually in transit to the United States. Thousands were honest immigrants who later decided to move southward across the international line.

Labour conditions in Canada are such that it is difficult for a newly arrived immigrant to make a living, and it is safe to assume that a majority of the 106,000 aliens who entered Canada last year are now in this country.

This is a fine harvest of the immigration policies of this government.

One man, closely in touch with the situation, expressed the opinion that every one of the 10,760 Irish immigrants—

And I ask the Postmaster General (Mr. Murphy) to weep with me over this—

—everyone of the 10,760 Irish immigrants to Canada last year had either entered the United States or fallen into the hands of the border patrol.