

things in that country to obtain which it was necessary that we should make some effort to force our opinion upon the people of the Dominion. It is true that we had broadcast our demands at great length and for a great many years, on the supposition that the rule, that if ye ask ye shall receive would be followed. But there seemed to be some difficulty about the reception of these requests at Ottawa, and results were not always as satisfactory as we expected. But I am glad to state that during the last two or three years things have apparently taken a turn for the better. I might confess in reference to western conditions that while we as westerners may talk a lot about our demands out there, I submit that anything that is for the good of western Canada is for the good of Canada as a whole, and that the prosperity of eastern Canada, especially the central provinces, is wrapped up to a great extent in the prosperity of western Canada. So that we are not altogether selfish when we make some few demands from time to time.

I am also glad to note, Mr. Speaker, that there are indications in the speech from the throne of further recognition of conditions in the west. The question that interests us to a very great extent, and one which must interest all of Canada, is the question of immigration. It is quite true that since the war of 1914 was brought to a close conditions have been such that any thorough scheme of immigration was difficult to carry out. But we have a territory out there which, although populated over a large area, is really sparsely settled in whole, a territory which can hold a great many more immigrants and a great many more producers. I would submit that the most necessary type of immigrant is he who is willing to go on the land and become a producer, that through him only can the wealth of the nation be built up, and that immigrants in other walks of life will naturally follow as a demand is made for their services. So I am glad to know that we are to have a progressive and deliberate attempt to bring in as many settlers as possible for that purpose.

In conjunction with this, I also note that it is the intention to extend branch lines of the Canadian National railway in western Canada. This is just as necessary both from the standpoint of those who are now living in sparsely settled districts and for the purpose of giving immigrants proper accommodation and market facilities. There are large areas where the farmers still have to haul their grain to market for considerably longer

[Mr. McPherson.]

distances than they should have to do in order to compete with others in the same line of life.

I am not going to discuss the completion of the Hudson Bay railway because we in the west regard that question as settled and feel that we are now going to have whatever benefits will accrue from the completion and operation of the railway. Leaving aside all argument as to the advisability of the Hudson Bay railway, I might draw to the attention of the House the fact that the people living in any district think that that district is the only place that is worth while considering. I myself went into the district of Portage la Prairie when there was no railway there, and I can remember as I grew up the criticism of the building of the Canadian Pacific railway on the ground that the country to be served would never be worth anything. Of course, events have proved that criticism to have been absolutely without foundation. In like manner I submit we might be hasty in our judgment should we consider that portion of Canada lying between The Pas and Hudson Bay to be a wilderness and not worth while developing. I think the development of the natural resources along the line will amply warrant the expenditures on this railway, and that western Canada in particular and Canada as a whole will eventually reap very substantial benefits from the construction of the Hudson Bay railway.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there is one other point in the Speech from the Throne which I wish to discuss shortly, and perhaps it is of more interest to me than to any other member of this House. I refer to the suggestion that the legislation which was not completed last session will be completed in this. This legislation includes the re-valuation of soldier settlers' land. When I am told that in the district lying between lake Winnipeg and lake Manitoba and on the west side of lake Manitoba the conditions of the soldier settlers are worse than in any other part of the Dominion, I regret to say that I cannot very well contradict the statement. I had heard rumours of it from time to time, but I did not realize the gravity of the situation until I went through that district. I am not for a moment suggesting any criticism of what has been done, I do not know who is to blame, but regardless of why or how the conditions arose, Mr. Speaker, I would ask this House to consider that we have a large number of soldier settlers up there who are in dire want, and unless they are relieved without much further delay it is doubtful if they will be able to remain on their holdings. A number of them have al-