

benevolent Government that has been patting itself upon the back and holding jubilees, they will seek to put their house in order and look after their own business, and to adjust matters to bring about results comparable to those that Canada enjoyed in the days of prosperity in years gone by.

I have burdened the House at too great length already, but I desire to say a word more touching the immigration question. Science and invention are daily narrowing the field of employment for labour. In inverse ratio the inevitable demand for relief and assistance to unemployed and aged workmen, no longer required or wanted in industry, is increasing. And these problems cannot be solved by increasing the importations of manufactured goods from other lands where lower standards of wages and living exist. High standards of living must be maintained in Canada, or the emigration of Canadian born citizens will continue to grow. Replacing them by the importation from continental Europe of those who will work for a lower wage and live upon a lower plane can only make the situation worse. The ultimate aim and hope of most of such immigrants is to cross some day the border-line into a country which they are now unable to enter. Such sojourners do not make good Canadian citizens, nor do they help to build a Canadian citizenship. The cumulative effect over a period of years of this migration of Canadians to the United States, and the replacing of them by continental Europeans whose only desire is to get across the boundary if opportunity permits, is not encouraging to the standard of citizenship or the national spirit that ought to exist in Canada, and the cumulative effect of twenty-five years of this practice will be disastrous. Now, honourable gentlemen, I am not a pessimist. I believe that these things are all capable of correction; but I believe that Canada has enjoyed a degree of prosperity in spite of and not because of its Government.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I hope the majority of the people are in a happier mood than my honourable friend.

Hon. JOHN S. McLENNAN: Honourable gentlemen, I shall take only a few minutes. I am conscious, in putting before you the thoughts that have been running through my mind during this debate, and prior to it, that what I have to say will be rather an anticlimax to some of the speeches to which we have listened, and certainly there will be no great vivacity on my part until I have digested the figures which the honour-

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON.

able gentleman who has just proceeded me (Hon. Mr. Robertson) has presented to us.

The line of the argument that I desire to make is somewhat similar to that followed by one or two speakers who have preceded me, namely, that a great deal too much attention has been given to this question of immigration—of bringing people into this country. Once the people in this country are prosperous and happy there will not be the slightest difficulty in getting others to come here, and in keeping them here. It is a by-lane, a blind alley, that we are travelling, and it seems to me that all the attention that is being given to the question of merely increasing our population will not make our immigration all that we want it to be, and will not keep here those who may be attracted to our shores. It seems to me that the prosperity of the people of the country is of vastly greater importance than the number of people. A population of one million living comfortably and earning a surplus will make a better country than a population of a million and a quarter with only the same productive power.

In the course of some remarks which I made last Session I illustrated the truth of that principle, as I conceived it, by some figures about Prince Edward Island, showing that though in the twenty years ending at the time of the last Census, in 1921, the population of the Island had decreased by about 15 per cent, yet the earnings in the Island per capita were three times greater than they were at the beginning of the period, in 1901. I think that the same principle applies throughout the country.

We have, it must be remembered, great natural resources and a very elaborate system of transportation. We can produce far more than will be absorbed by the home market in, say, the next decade, however great may be the increase in population. In order to keep our industrial enterprises busy and provide adequate business for our transportation system we unquestionably need to increase our production, particularly our manufacturing and industrial output and our exports. We have a volume of exports which is very creditable, considering the population of Canada, but a large proportion of our exports are not sufficiently advanced from the raw state to give the utmost income to our people. We must increase not only the volume, but also the value, by sending out finished products rather than raw materials. In studying and devising means whereby our production may be increased, the country made more prosperous, our people kept here and other