

young women too, is away from the rural districts and towards the cities and city life. I appeal to the audience before me for proof of this assertion. How many of your homes, how many of your neighbors' homes, but to-night are represented in Boston, that magic name, the goal to which the youth of this land look forward; that name which to the Nova Scotia boy covers the continent from Cape Cod to San Francisco.

I look back scarcely ten years for the class of thirty or forty boys and girls with whom I associated in the village school, only a scant half dozen can be counted in the Valley. The rest, where are they? Scattered from the billowy Atlantic to the broad Pacific; from frozen Alaska on the North to that gigantic young Republic beyond the equator; in business life in San Francisco, confidential clerks in Boston, in whaling steamers in the Arctic Ocean, in trading ships in the Atlantic; orange growing in Florida, ranching in Montana; in commercial life in New York, mining in Colorado; teachers, doctors, missionaries, mechanics, and this is but a tithe of the hundreds, aye, of the thousands, who have gone from their homes in this country to fight the battle of life in a strange land. An army of young men and women trained to labor, with habits of industry and perseverance, and filled with a resistless energy, that exerted in this country would cause such a glow of activity in arts, in science, in manufactures, and in social life, as would make Nova Scotia, aye, this great Dominion, throb with an energy and vigor to which she has long been unaccustomed; an army of young men and women, all successful, all prosperous, but lost to Nova Scotia, and expatriated from their Nova Scotia homes.

Is it any wonder, Mr. Chairman, we complain of hard times with this terrible drain upon the resources of our country. Why should our young people leave a land where with moderate labor they can live in comfort, even in luxury, and plunge into the vortex of city life?

There must be a cause for this tendency, and where shall we look for a solution of the problem? The question is discussed frequently in the agricultural papers, you have read and reread all the standard arguments—of the dearth of newspapers in the farmer's home, of the hardness of the farmer's heart; how he from time to time gives his boy a calf to nurture and care for, and how in course of time it becomes father's cow. This is all bosh, Mr. Chairman, as a farmer's

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