

has the responsibility of Canada been as great as to-day. The fate of the allied cause rests with Great Britain, her dominions and our great ally to the south. The eastern situation is dark indeed. Russia is broken and has become an easy prey for German aggression. Rumania, Poland, Serbia, and Italy can do no more than defend what is left. Gallant Belgium, that held the German hordes back so heroically at the beginning, is despoiled, outraged, and ravished. Brave and brilliant France is putting her all in the struggle, fighting for her existence. It remains for Britain, Canada and the United States to put forth their full strength for the restoration of the heritage of the despoiled nations, for the destruction of militarism, and for making the world safe for democracy. With an all-conquering faith in our cause, our armies and navy and in our God, we will conquer or die.

The Speech refers to the extension of the present Civil Service Act to the Outside Service, so that promotions and appointments will be made solely on merit and efficiency. This is especially opportune, in view of the demand of the times for the Government to assume larger powers and obligations in undertaking as national enterprises more of the public utilities of the country.

The creation of two new departments of the Government will meet with the approval of the people. The first, that of Immigration and Colonization, is pregnant with possibilities. What Canada needs is population of the right kind to develop her lands and resources. The province of Alberta, from which I come, alone has sufficient land and resources to sustain a population larger than the whole of Canada to-day. We need people to help develop all our great natural assets; but we want people who will become Canadians, who can appreciate Canadian aims, ideals, traditions, and institutions. Immigration has kept up during the war. Doubtless afterwards there will be an unprecedented settlement in Canada which will tax the new department to direct and control.

We must have a united Canada. Our interests are in common. Let us not think in terms of the East or the West, but of a greater Canada which is destined to fill an increasingly larger place among the nations of the world. What is in the interests of the West is in the interests of the East. It is incumbent upon the Government to use every effort to encourage the development of our vast agricultural areas, our mines, our timber, our fisheries, and all our other

great natural wealth. Interprovincial trade must be encouraged. The conception of the Fathers of Confederation in joining together the scattered settlements of Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific by iron bands of interprovincial traffic was a national conception which we must realize to-day more than ever before. The West will transport her grain, her coal, and her other natural products to the East. In return, the East will send Western Canada her manufactured products. The prosperity and development of the West spells increased wealth and production for the East.

Canada has a transportation problem. To-day we have more transcontinental mileage in our three interprovincial railway systems than the present traffic can support profitably. Last winter Eastern Canada had a fuel shortage. In the province of Alberta alone we have 85 per cent of the coal reserves of Canada, enough to supply fuel for the people of Canada for centuries to come. It is in the development of all these great natural resources of Western Canada that the future is bright with hope, not only for the solution of the question of transportation, but also for the creation of wealth through increased production that we can hope to meet the immense financial obligations of the country.

Honourable gentlemen, the greatest duty of Canada, next to the prosecution of the war, is to take care of the returned soldier. The new department created for this purpose will be directed by men of wide experience. Already much has been done to care for as well as train men for service through vocational training. I would like to have your indulgence while I give a concrete example of the effective work done in this direction. A blacksmith from my town returned from the front, physically unfit for his usual work. He took several months' training in mechanics and engineering in Calgary, and, as a result, he is now qualified to give a higher service, and to support himself and his family by a work which he is physically and mentally able to do. This is only one example out of many which shows the excellent and magnificent undertaking which the Government proposes along this line.

The land settlement question is one which will require great consideration. Many different views are held upon this question. One principle, I think, most men agree upon, that in any scheme of land settlement the soldier should not be isolated. A social centre must necessarily be a part of any plan.

The Government's programme, as indicated by the Speech from the Throne,