

there was no water; but we rejoice to find the new government implementing the promises they made while in opposition, by being prepared to assist and cooperate with the provincial authorities in giving us a system of highways which will enable the husbandman to convey the products of his farm to the elevators and railways. The very fertility of our soil makes it difficult for us to have good roads. I believe any member of this House who has travelled in western Canada will realize how many difficulties have to be overcome in the construction of highways in that country; but by the co-operation of the federal government with the provincial authorities we may hope to have constructed great trunk lines of communication whereby the farmers will be enabled readily to reach their markets, and also whereby the mails will be more readily conveyed to the remote sections of the country. This is a matter which I am sure will commend itself to the people of the west.

Closely allied with that is the encouragement which the new administration proposes to give to agriculture. It would of course be a mere commonplace to say that in a country like this, with a population of something over seven millions, and where over one-half of our people is engaged in agricultural pursuits, it is absolutely essential to give consideration to every measure that can be devised to advance those interests. It is encouraging to find this new administration, in its early life, making a deliberate attempt to grapple with the problem of how to secure the best results from the cultivation of the soil. It is also necessary in this country that we should appreciate the lessons of conservation. The very prodigality of nature in bestowing her bounties upon us not only in the west, but in all parts of Canada, is one of the reasons why we have been prodigal in their use. We are finding, despite our splendid natural resources, and despite the opportunities which exist on every hand for reaping rich rewards from industry, that we can soon exhaust those resources, and it is the duty of statesmen not only to conserve the natural resources of the country, but the public health and public energy by measures which will best advance the interests of the people as a whole. I hope this administration will find some place in its programme for providing a department of public health. In the report of the conservation commission appointed by a former president of the United States it was stated that great as was the value of the material resources of those states, there was a still greater monetary value attached to the vital energy and living force of its

people. We are a new country, and we have the opportunity to create such conditions as will conserve not only our material resources, but the health, energy and vitality of our people. It has been found that the largest number of industrial accidents happen toward the close of the day's work when the vital forces are low, and too many of our railway accidents have been directly attributable to the employees remaining too long on duty. Too often it has been found that child labour and the work which has been undertaken, especially by married women, in the older countries has involved a loss of vital force in the succeeding generation, and we Canadians—we in this young country—must, it seems to me, if we are true to our best traditions, realize that at best we hold this great land with its brilliant opportunities and its splendid resources as trustees for that posterity which will one day weigh us up in judgment for the manner in which we have discharged the trust reposed in us; and I hope and believe that this attempt and endeavour that is to be made by this new administration to conserve our resources and the heritage of our people will meet with a ready response from the people of the east and the west and will everywhere bring about those results which we are so very desirous to accomplish.

Then there is closely allied to the question of the development of our agricultural industry, the consolidation of the Grain Acts and the taking over under proper control by a commission of the terminals at the head of the Great Lakes. It has been a fruitful source of dissatisfaction and complaint on the part of the western agriculturists that proper provision has not been made at the head of the Great Lakes for the storage of our grain products. This complaint this new administration now proposes to remedy, but there are many questions which are worthy of the consideration of this House before we commit ourselves to a scheme that would involve the nationalizing of all of the grain terminals at the head of the Great Lakes. By 1915 the Panama canal will be completed, the Hudson Bay railway will have been completed, the National Transcontinental railway will practically have been completed, and new methods of transportation will be furnished to the people. It is, therefore, of vital importance in the minds and thoughts of those who produce grain in the west that no mistake be made so far as the terminals at Hudson bay are concerned, and we rejoice that the speedy completion of the railway will be one of the matters which will receive the most earnest consideration of this administration. It is a matter in which the people in the west are vitally interested, that terminals shall be constructed there under