

the last year has been limited. We are hopeful that 1914 may prove a banner year. Our people are optimistic and better satisfied than formerly to remain and help to develop the wealth and possibilities in New Brunswick.

Hon. J. A. Matheson (P.E.I.):—

Generally speaking the year has been characterized by great corporate activity, as above referred to, and in other lines by a large and profitable trade, a fair production in the farming and fishing industries, a good measure of general prosperity, and the largest provincial revenue in our history.

Sir Rodmond Roblin (Manitoba):—

The year 1913 has been one of steady and satisfying progress along all lines for the province of Manitoba. In agriculture, in commerce, and along all industrial lines the year has been especially satisfactory.

Hon. Walter Scott (Saskatchewan):—

Saskatchewan reaches the end of the year with her farming population in better position and in better spirits than was the case a year ago.

Hon. Arthur L. Sifton (Alberta):—

Judged by every standard of the economist, Alberta exhibits a condition of prosperity. Nineteen hundred and thirteen has been one of the best years in this period.

Hon. Sir Richard McBride (B.C.):—

British Columbia has made remarkable progress in the year just ended, and there is every reason to anticipate continued growth and prosperity in 1914.

Under these circumstances my right hon. friend cannot afford to sing the doleful song he has chanted to us.

Let me tell the leader of the Opposition that if he looks abroad he will find that there are countries in the world possessing magnificent resources and which are undoubtedly looking forward with certitude to a great future, in which the conditions as to non-employment are very much worse than they are in Canada. Between November 15 and December 1, idle freight cars in the United States increased from 22,000 to 57,000.

Any observations which I purpose making as to conditions in the United States for the purpose of comparing those outlined by my right hon. friend as existing in Canada, are not made with the idea of reflecting in any way upon the future of the United States. I might point out, indeed, that

[Mr. Borden].

that great economic and business authority, Sir George Paish, is convinced that conditions in the United States at present are such as will lead to an early and very marked advance of prosperity and business activity in that country. I am merely pointing out that there are conditions in the United States of a temporary character which seem to me to transcend anything that my right hon. friend has been able to point to in Canada, even if we accept his statement as to non-employment at its face value. The Daily Iron Trade estimates that in the United States there are in the iron and steel industry 1,000,000 men on the idle list with a wage loss of fifty millions a month; also 270,000 miners out of work. Blast furnaces in operation declined from 306 to 183. The Daily Iron Trade also estimates that one million men have been thrown out of employment who were engaged in industries allied to the steel and iron business. In South Chicago district nearly 6,000 men were recently discharged within three weeks and a much larger number placed on half time. In Washington 227 shingle and lumber mills have been closed and 15,000 men thrown out of employment. The New York Journal of Commerce estimates that the present wage payments throughout the United States are 1,250,000 dollars per day below the normal, indicating a falling of four hundred million dollars for the year. The same journal states that out of a total of 627,000 union men employed in New York state, 101,150 are out of work, representing the highest unemployed average for many years.

Although the conditions in Great Britain are fairly satisfactory, so far as most branches of the trade are concerned, there were, during the year ending November, 1913, 38 blast furnaces (pig iron) out of 321 closed down, 28 tin plate mills out of 508 closed down, and six steel sheet mills out of 77 closed down. There are similar statistics as to loss of employment in other European countries, but I will not inflict them upon the House to-night.

I will merely add this, that when my right hon. friend asserts that there was not any non-employment in Canada from 1897 to the present year he is absolutely forgetful of the conditions which prevailed during the latter part of 1907 and the early part of 1908. If I am not mistaken the conditions as to