

the "glorious National Policy." Then, there are other indications of prosperity. We have more money in the savings banks, as well as a large amount deposited in the ordinary banks of the country; larger amounts of money seeking investment, and seeking it at a lower rate of interest. Our investment companies have done a prosperous business this last year, and their reports show that, so far as the lands that were in their hands are concerned they have been able to make ready sales—a proof of the rise in the values of property in Canada. We have also a satisfactory condition of affairs in our retail and wholesale trade; the labouring classes are better circumstanced, failures in this country are less than they were before, both in percentage and in amount; the business of our railways has increased. Why, Sir, since I came to Ottawa there has been placed upon my desk a report of the Canadian Pacific Railway from which I find that the net earnings of the road, which two years ago amounted to about eight millions, during last year amounted to ten and a half millions, an increase of two and a half millions in two years. The same story would be told by the reports of other railways in Canada. In Prince Edward Island there has been a substantial increase in the earnings of the railway during the past year. All these facts show that the prosperity of Canada is not confined to one locality or to one province, but extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

There is one other reference in the Speech from the Throne that demands more than mere passing attention. I refer to our immigration. I was pleased to notice in a report recently issued by the Imperial authorities that during the past year while the emigration to all other countries but Canada had decreased by from 1 to 10 per cent, so far as Canada was concerned the volume of that emigration from Great Britain had been 20 per cent greater than in the previous year. These figures speak volumes. During the past year accounts have appeared in the press showing considerable accretions to our population from the United States. This is notably the case in the province of Quebec, where whole families, you may say settlements, are moving back from the United States. Instead of the exodus, repatriation has set in. The same story is told with respect to certain portions of the North-west Territories. I am glad to notice that the Canadian Pacific Railway returns of sales of land show that in the past year the sales to actual settlers have been two or three times greater than in the previous year. A similar record is shown by the Government figures with regard to homesteads taken up. Then, with respect to British Columbia, we find that there is an immense immigration into that province.

Villages and towns are springing up in the mining districts and along the lines of rail-

way recently constructed. I have not the least doubt that in the year 1901 when the next census returns are received, we will find that British Columbia has changed her relationship to the other provinces of the Dominion, and that she has taken her place next after the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. We shall then find that she will occupy the third place in the galaxy of the provinces, the third in population and in wealth. There is another matter also that I was pleased to notice. During the past year we have had not an export as has characterized the administration of former years, but an import of \$2,225,000 of settlers' effects into Canada. These figures speak more forcibly and more eloquently than any words I could utter to indicate that immigration is now setting into this country in full force. During the days of the National Policy, we used to have to complain of an exodus. Why, Sir, we used to spend millions of money to bring people into this country. After we got them here we found that they made of Canada only a temporary resting place, and then, like the Arabs they folded their tents and silently stole away. They went somewhere else, usually to the United States of America. Such was the deplorable condition of affairs at that time. We found after the census returns came in—those cold, unfeeling and heartless census returns—that at the end of the ten years we had lost not only all the immigrants that came into Canada, but one-half of the increase of our population besides. I am glad, Mr. Speaker, to be able to say, and to rejoice with the people of Canada, that the exodus from this country to the United States has ceased, and, I trust has ceased for ever. There was a time when the prosperity of North America was likened unto a great stream flowing majestically onward. The United States—so they boasted—were in the centre of the stream where the current was deepest, and strongest, and swiftest. Canada occupied a position in an eddy of the current, riding around at anchor, or perchance moving slowly along the shore. I am glad that to-day the position of this country has changed. Canada does not now occupy a position in the eddy of the current, or creeping tardily along the shore; her place is in the centre of the stream where the current is strongest, and deepest and swiftest. She is now moving proudly onward upon the wave of an ever-increasing prosperity. What part of the credit of all this is due to the Liberal party of Canada, I shall not attempt to analyse. I am aware that some portion of our prosperity is due to the discovery, perhaps, accidental discovery, of gold in the Yukon. Certainly some portion of it is due to that beneficent Providence that has given us a favourable springtime and an abundant harvest. But for the rest, I take my stand with the ordinary elector of Canada, of average intelligence, who says, who thinks and who is confident that some portion of