

A wise and
vigorous
immigration
policy

Time re-
quired

Conditions at
time of tak-
ing office

I shall not attempt this evening to go into any statements with respect to immigration, beyond mention of the fact that a wise and vigorous policy is not worked out in a day, that it requires time and very considerable effort, and I might add that it involves not a little in the way of outlay as well. When we came into office we found the machinery of immigration at a standstill and the springs of immigration drying up at the source. Mr. Meighen and his colleagues had been concerning themselves more with the proceedings of the imperial conferences and general elections than with arranging a flow of immigration to Canada. Moreover, as may now be recalled, we encountered in the winter of 1921 a very serious unemployment situation, which involved the spending of large sums to keep from starvation the labour already in the country. In the spring of 1922 however, we started the sowing of the seed which has since been bearing fruit and which has brought to our shores over 300,000 immigrants in the last three years.

The so-called
exodus to the
United States

The talk of the exodus of Canadians to the United States is in many respects as exaggerated as it is unpatriotic. The prosperity following in American cities immediately after the war, the changes in United States laws respecting immigration, the return to that country of American soldiers who had belonged to Canadian regiments, these and many other circumstances contributed to a temporary movement which has always been a feature along our border line, and to many persons being classed as immigrants from Canada who should

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