

our efforts annulled by losing our immigrants to the country to the south of us. But there the question arises: why is he going? My honourable friend has spoken of an exodus from the Canadian West, and from other provinces as well, over the line to the south of us. So long as that exodus continues we may be bringing immigrants to this country who will simply join in that procession. I take it for granted that there are conditions which work against us. My honourable friend has said that this country, with its cold winters, is a hard and costly country to live in. But these conditions have prevailed during the last fifteen years, and yet our population has not moved away so rapidly, and has seemed to be contented in the West. I believe the whole question is one of the remuneration of farm work. If a farmer finds that he is working at a loss, naturally he will try to go elsewhere, to some place where he may make a profit. The situation has been such that he has found that with all his labour, transportation costs and living costs being so high, he had a deficit at the end of the year. This condition must be righted. Can this Government do anything towards reducing the cost of transportation? It comes down in the last analysis namely to a question of wages. We have but 8 per cent of the total railway men of North America, and we are dependent upon the decisions made on the other side. What will the United States do? Will they be able, with their Government, to dominate the situation and assert the will of the people as against men who want to thrive by forcing their fellow men to pay them a higher wage than is reasonable? The near future will tell. The same question applies to the case of the wages of the miners.

I have suggested to the Quebec Government a scheme for the purpose of endeavouring to retain our people on this side of the line, and it has been to a certain extent put into practice. I suggested to the Minister of Immigration and Colonization of Quebec that a circular be sent to the parson or priest, to the secretary-treasurer of the municipality, and to the postmaster, telling them of the necessity of helping to retain our people on this side of the line, and asking them, by simply returning the postal card which accompanies the circular, to notify the Department if So-and-so, or the son of So-and-so, is speaking of leaving this country and crossing over to the United States. That is not a costly organization, and I am wondering if the other provinces could not do likewise, so that four or five important persons coming

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into daily contact with the people of their municipality or township would send to either the provincial or the federal department the names of any persons disposed to leave the district. The Government will then have an opportunity to influence such persons to remain in this country by offering to them the advantages we have to offer, in land grants or otherwise. Why should not the advantages offered to strangers be offered to our own people? I think there is some merit in the very simple suggestion that I have made. It strikes me that it would have the further advantage of giving the Governments, federal and provincial, an idea of the reason for that movement southward. They would engage in correspondence with persons who were thinking of leaving or were somewhat uncertain or dissatisfied, and it is probable that in the multiplicity of answers received we would obtain a fair general view as to the reasons why people leave their own country. There is no doubt that the profitability of agriculture and the settlement of our land are one and the same problem.

My honourable friend opposite seemed scandalized that the present Government had engaged in negotiations with our friends to the south with a view to replacing or renewing the Rush-Bagot treaty limiting war vessels and armaments on the Great Lakes. He criticized the matter and the form. My honourable friend does not seem to have noticed the evolution that has taken place in the increased powers of the Dominion. I would ask him to read the address delivered before the American Historical Association at New Haven on the 20th of December, 1922, by his former leader, the Right Hon. Sir Robert Borden. He will see there—or he will be reminded, for he was a member of the Administration—that we had outgrown the stage at which we needed to ask London to attend to our business in matters that were specially Canadian. I must express my admiration for the work that my honourable friend's Government succeeded in doing in 1920, in making arrangements with Great Britain and the United States to allow of Canadian representation at Washington. This was the statement which was made, I think, by Sir Robert Borden, if not by his successor, in May, 1920, to the House of Commons:

As a result of recent discussions an arrangement has been concluded between the British and Canadian Governments to provide more complete representation at Washington of Canadian interests than hitherto existed. Accordingly it has been agreed that His Majesty, on advice of his Canadian Ministers, shall appoint a Minister Plenipotentiary who will have