

paid enough of the cost of the war as we have gone along, with the result the inflation of our currency has been increased and our debt larger than it otherwise would be.

We have also the suggestion—and it is a very wise one—that if we are to get out of the difficulties that may be ahead of us, one of the means of assisting in that is to secure additional immigration to this country. With that, I am in entire accord, but I am not sure that I agree with the estimates that have been made in some quarters that within the next ten years the population of this country will have increased to 15,000,000 souls. I hope I am mistaken, but I am afraid that when the next census returns come in, they will be disappointing to the Canadian people. We have spent large sums in promoting immigration to this country, and with what result? We have spent large sums in promoting immigration from the United States to this country, and with what result? Our Department of Immigration and Colonization returns, unfortunately, do not give us the number of people that leave this country for foreign lands. We have records of the number of people that come into this country, but none of those that go out. In this connection I want to give the House a quotation from the last report of the American Commissioner General of Immigration, a United States government report, regarding this matter. To me, it was a surprise, as I am sure it will be to many members of this House. Here is what he states:

During the eleven fiscal years, 1909-1919, the total immigration from Canada to the United States, including returning American citizens, was approximately 1,288,000, compared with an immigration into Canada from the United States of 1,072,000, or a balance of about 216,000 in our favour. In the movement of United States citizens alone to and from Canada, the balance is in favour of the latter, for during the past ten years nearly 562,000 have gone there and about 367,000 have come to the United States.

In other words, of the immigrants that we have received in Canada from the United States, amounting in that period to 562,000, according to their figures, 367,000 have returned to the United States.

Mr. BURNHAM: Which country had the higher tariff during that period?

Mr. CRERAR: I am afraid that I do not follow my hon. friend. I am anxious to get through and I am taking up, perhaps, more time than I should. It continues:

It should be understood that these groups do not include those who cross the border temporarily in either direction, but only those who come or go for expected permanent residence.

[Mr. Crerar.]

But there is one other statement, and this also is significant.

The movement of alien immigrants from Canada—

That is alien immigration from Canada as against native-born Canadians.

—to the United States is very largely made up of persons of northern and western European descent or birth, the chief element in the order of their importance being English, French, Scotch, Irish, German, and Scandinavian. Peoples of southern and eastern European stock form relatively a small part of the movement.

What does that mean? It means that of the immigrants we bring to our shores from England, France, Scotland, Ireland, Scandinavia, and Southern and Eastern Europe, the greater percentage of those who leave us to go to the United States are from those who are considered the best and most desirable class.

These are not pleasant things to contemplate, but I say again to my protectionist friends on the other side, if this is the product of forty years of protection in this country, surely it is time to consider a change. If we are going to keep these people whom we bring to our shores we must make Canada a cheap country to live in for the ordinary man; we must make it a good country to live in. Why do people stay in a country? Because it is a good place in which to get along and raise their families. They will not stay if they are up against circumstances which make it difficult for them to make both ends meet. There is also this fact, which may very well be taken into consideration in conjunction with this: In Canada in 1918—and I would call the attention of my manufacturing friends in the House to this—we raised 80 per cent of our federal revenues by taxes on consumption. In the same year the United States raised 20 per cent of their federal revenues by taxes on consumption. What does that mean? Simply this, that taxes on consumption are taxes on things that people must have in order to maintain existence. The result is that on the whole the cost of living to the working man is lower to-day in the United States than it is in Canada, and if wages are as good in the United States—and they are, and in some cases they are better—I ask my manufacturing friends how long they are going to keep in Canada their skilled workmen and artisans when that condition of affairs exists. There is only one way in which the situation can be met, and it is to use every possible agency