

I believe in moderate protection for the development of infant industries. I believe that protection against the unfair competition of a lower standard of civilization is justified. I do not disbelieve in protection for revenue, but surely after forty years of protection our factories and workshops can hardly be considered infants, and our indigenous industries to require excessive protection.

I think that it was Sir George Etienne Cartier who many years ago said that if Canada was to prosper it must be made a place cheaper to live in than the United States. Is Canada a cheap place to live in to-day?

The history of the numerical development of the population of Canada has been a tragedy. Let us analyse this:

The population in 1901 was 5,200,000. The normal increase in ten years would be approximately 1,100,000—total 6,300,000. Immigration from 1901 to 1911 was 2,000,000. The population in 1911 should have been 8,300,000. The actual population in 1911 was 7,100,000. The deficit was 1,200,000.

In ten years, in spite of immigration, we show a real deficit, although an apparent increase. What has happened? Where has our population disappeared? Our Canadians have been emigrating to the United States.

I will not quote statistics, because as you know there are three kinds of lies, —lies, d—lies and statistics.

2. Prince Edward Islander tells me that although the population of Prince Edward Island to-day is only 94,000 there are 100,000 Prince Edward Islanders living in the States. A French Canadian tells me that 1,500,000 French-Canadians are living in the States. A Nova Scotian tells me that there are 100,000 Nova Scotians resident in Boston.

Let us consider the population of Canada from another viewpoint.

There are more than 100,000 foreigners in Montreal and a large proportion in Toronto and Hamilton. I am told that 40% of the population of Saskatchewan is alien. It is said that there are approximately the same proportion of aliens in Manitoba. I understand that there is a slightly smaller proportion of aliens in the Province of Alberta.

It is evident that the alien under our old National Policy has been supplanting the Canadian. Canada has not been, broadly, a "cheap enough" country for the Canadian to live in. Its opportunities have not been attractive enough for our Canadians, but, instead, we have attracted cheap labour for our factories in the form of the alien. A Westerner tells me that if the present rate of increase of alien population continues, in twenty years the alien will own Canada. This is possibly an exaggeration, but undoubtedly we Canadians are becoming slaves to outsiders. Quantity, not quality, has been Canada's immigration policy! And we cannot blame this on our governments, because the doctrine of the importance of immigration and yet more immigration has been the very pap on which Canadians have been nourished. Thus even those who ought to be thinkers still speak as if Canada's prosperity depended, not on our own Canadians, not on the crops, but only on immigration.

CANADA'S PROSPERITY

Canada's prosperity depends on her own Canadian people and on Canadian soil.

How can we make the countryside in Canada a place from which nobody would willingly emigrate? That is the question. First, farming must be made a paying proposition. Second, we must aspire to create the rural community. The creation of a rural civilization is the greatest need of our time. Our countryman must without undue journeying be able to satisfy to the full his economic, social, intellectual and spiritual needs, and there is no reason why as intense, intellectual, and progressive a life should not be possible in the country as in the towns. Man does not live by cash alone, but by every gift of fellowship and brotherly feeling society offers him. It is one of the illusions of modern materialistic thought to suppose that as high a quality of life is not possible in a village as in a great city, and it ought to be one of the aims of rural reformers to dissipate this fallacy, and to show that it is possible—not indeed to concentrate wealth in country communities as in the cities—but that it is possible to bring comfort enough to satisfy any reasonable person and to create a society where there will be intellectual life and human interests. One happy invention after another will come to lighten the labour of life. There will be, of course, a village hall with a library and gymnasium, where the boys and girls will be made straight, athletic and graceful. In the evenings when the work of the day is done, if we went into the village hall we would find a dance going on or perhaps a concert.

Our aristocracy must be that of character and intellect. Money must not be all.

Agriculture is of more importance to the nation than manufactures. At least nine-tenths of the population of Great Britain belong to the wage earning class and many in Canada also. These are the people whom we ought to help, and for them and especially for their children, the new National Policy offers the first opportunity of relief."

