

when they fixed these subsidies, believed, as they were justified in believing, that the population of our provinces would multiply, and that the subsidies would consequently increase in the same proportion. Certain facts are always painful to recognize and announce, but for the future welfare of our provinces themselves I must point out that our people, instead of remaining on our soil, have gone off to the United States, and that the population of these provinces may be said to have remained stationary. Very small is the proportion of our people who have gone to settle in the western provinces. Those who have left have nearly all gone to the United States.

At page 14 of the report it is stated that since 1911 the population of the Maritime Provinces has increased only ten per cent. The Commission may not have been fully informed of the situation, as I am; so I may be permitted to point out that the increase of population in the Province of New Brunswick is entirely due to the French Acadian population. I regret to say, but in the public interest I must say, that the English-speaking population of the Province of New Brunswick, from Confederation until 1921, increased by only 31 souls. To-day my colleagues from New Brunswick are crying out for foreign immigration. It is deplorable that we have allowed our own children to leave the country. The vacant lands now offered to the foreign immigrant in the Province of New Brunswick should never have been abandoned. The number of our own children who, in a single generation, have left that province for the United States is almost equal to the present population. I have always sought to have our people kept at home, and if in the course of my career I have not succeeded as I desired, I can at least assert that the County of Gloucester shows a greater increase than any other part of the province.

I have had occasion more than once to meet my colleagues in the House of Commons and other authorities of our province who were demanding a change in the Constitution which would give us the right to retain our representation in Parliament. I have told them that we ought first to retain our own people, and that the natural increase would then enable us to maintain our representation.

I trust now that the recommendations submitted by the Royal Commission on the subject of colonization will receive the most careful consideration from our authorities, provincial as well as federal, and that they will try to keep our people on Canadian soil, and especially in our own province.

Hon. Mr. TURGEON.

The Speech from the Throne mentions that remarkable progress has been made in the construction of the Hudson Bay Railway, and announces the Government's intention to submit the study of conditions at the port to the careful examination of an outstanding British authority on tidal and estuarial conditions affecting harbours. I am pleased, indeed, to see this step taken, for I have always doubted, and I still doubt, the practicability of navigation to the harbour of Port Nelson. The natural conditions at Fort Churchill are recognized as excellent. It would be a real misfortune to choose a seaport in which currents and storms might cause heavy damage to traffic. It is reassuring to learn of this decision of the Government, which means, I think, that if it is found desirable to use the harbour of Fort Churchill, the necessary change will be made.

The Speech from the Throne announces also the recent appointment of a Minister Plenipotentiary accredited by His Majesty to represent the interests of Canada in the United States. This certainly marks an important stage in the evolution of Canada's international relations. The work of our worthy representative will assuredly tend to create between the two countries a spirit of harmony and fraternity which in the future may well assist in solving many international problems of great importance. His work may also bring about a feeling of commercial and economic co-operation which will be to the advantage of Canada as a whole, and particularly the Maritime Provinces.

The witnesses who appeared before the Royal Commission of Inquiry on Maritime Rights all urged the free admission of the products of our forests, lands and fisheries to the American market—a privilege which we lost in 1911 by the rejection of reciprocity with the United States. Let us look forward with renewed confidence to a better future.

It is my heartfelt wish that Canada's Minister Plenipotentiary at Washington may have all possible success in his important mission. Hon. Vincent Massey is possessed of all the ability and qualifications required for the discharge of the high duties which the Government have entrusted to him. The office has certainly become a necessity, the relations between the two countries having assumed such importance; and only a Canadian, thoroughly familiar with Canadian sentiment, can speak with the desired authority for this country. Henceforth we shall have to negotiate our own treaties and assume responsibility for them.