

of over 100,000,000. Canada has almost as large an area as the continent of Europe with its 400,000,000 people. It has 33 per cent. of the total area of the British Empire with its population of over 400,000,000. From Sydney on the Atlantic to Vancouver on the Pacific is 3,500 miles; and from the international boundary north to Herschel Island—the most northerly mission station of any of our Canadian Churches—is 1,400 miles. You say area is relatively unimportant; Canada lies so near the North Pole that but a small proportion of the total area is reasonably habitable by man. This view for many years largely prevailed in Europe, in a measure in the United States, and even to some extent in our own country; exploration and investigation are rapidly dispelling this erroneous conception.

What is our situation and what the habitable area? It is an interesting fact that probably 25 per cent. of the total area of the United States lies north of the city of Toronto. Edinburgh is 800 miles and St. Petersburg 1,100 miles north of Toronto. But you say the warm currents of the Atlantic so moderate the climate on the west coast of Europe that these figures have no application. The warm currents of the Atlantic find their counterpart in the warm currents of the Pacific, and the climate on the west coast of America is largely similar to that on the west coast of Europe. Dawson City, the most northerly city in Canada, is 1,400 miles north of Toronto. It is as far north of Toronto as Mexico City is south. It is as far north of the international boundary as Los Angeles is south. It is undoubtedly true that very large areas in the northern part of Canada, so far as we know at present, are not reasonably habitable, but Canada has an area almost as large as the United States which is reasonably habitable so far as climate is concerned. Even within this restricted area, as large as the United States, there may be large areas the value of which we have not as yet ascertained—if any value they possess—as the home of man, but in every large country there are areas of barren land unsuitable for cultivation and largely unoccupied by man. After making all due allowance, there still remains an area at least half as large as the continent of Europe which, so far as we know at present, should be the home of men. We have great varieties of climate, but nowhere is the climate so warm as to be enervating, and everywhere it should breed a strong, aggressive and a conquering race. It is not possible at present to form an accurate estimate of the extent or richness of our great natural resources. It is not