

well established. They have come into this newer country in an effort to reestablish themselves notwithstanding the handicaps and difficulties of the situation because, so far as they can see, it is the very best thing they can do. The only alternative for them would be to go into town or into some other district where they would be able to do practically nothing for themselves and would have to accept direct relief.

Then we have the Hines Creek and Clear Lake prairie country lying north of the Peace river, and passing through to Hudson Hope through the constituency of my hon. friend from Cariboo (Mr. Fraser). There is a settlement there in a section about eighty miles long and possibly ten to twenty or thirty miles deep. Driving through it you would hardly notice that there were any settlers, but if there was anything to draw them together you would soon find large groups of settlers gathering together from the timber and park sections of that district where they are trying to hew out for themselves new homes amongst the timber and the bush.

We have also settlements on the south side of the Peace river extending back right to the Rocky mountains. They are mostly new settlers who have come in there from the older districts to make a new start and reestablish themselves so that they may be independent of relief so far as that lies within their power. They have a tremendously difficult task before them, difficult enough for young bachelors, but much more difficult for older men who have families, some of whom have been well off in other days but have come up there to start the battle all over again and provide for their families. Many of them are enduring tremendous hardships and are forced sometimes to ask for relief. But they are doing their very best to reach independence by their own efforts.

It seems to me a tragedy that we have to say in the face of such conditions that we will not go ahead and spend any more money for railways because, forsooth, we are having certain financial difficulties in this country. Over a long period of years in the history of railway development in this country we have made mistakes, and we are now trying to do something to consolidate the railways of Canada and to provide for more cooperation and the elimination of duplication. But, Mr. Speaker, I submit that there is no question of duplication in this instance.

How are these people going to be able to establish themselves,—and I think that would be a good thing in the interests of the whole

country,—if they are not able to earn money; if there is no new government money, if you like, coming into the district so that they may earn something by their own efforts to pay their expenses and help reestablish themselves? How are they going to be able to establish themselves with the low prices that prevail to-day? It seems to me that the government must assume some responsibility in the matter of enabling these people to establish themselves. The situation calls for something more than direct relief, if they are to be given any encouragement in their efforts to establish themselves and get some satisfaction out of their lives. We have throughout that whole country a type of people generally who hate to take relief, and will only take it as a last resort when they are absolutely forced to it, and because of that fact I am very anxious to see the government undertake to do something in their behalf.

I mentioned a little while ago the question of duplication, but I submit that there is no real question of duplication here. That whole country has been surveyed, and surveyed in such a way that it is possible to lay out a plan of development of the Peace River country, covering ten times the amount of land that is now under cultivation, and without a single mile of duplication in the whole thing. We know exactly where the branch lines ought to be and where the main outlet ought to be, and where the branch lines and the outlet should be fitted into one another so that we will have one harmonious whole when the railway project is completed.

This afternoon, Mr. Speaker, I am not going to say that we ought to vote in this house a sum of money to carry through the whole railway program at once, but I am asking for a gradual development looking towards the completion of that outlet so as to give the settlers who are there an opportunity to establish themselves under reasonable conditions. The financial argument crops up at once but I submit that this is not as serious to-day as it was a year ago. There is talk everywhere of a general recovery. The speech from the throne stated that there was evidence of a return to permanent prosperity. While that statement may be a little strong, there is certainly evidence of a return of something better than we had a year ago. Because this is true not only of Canada but of countries like Great Britain and the United States we have reason to believe that this recovery will continue. I hold in my hand the monthly review of the Midland bank, and I should like to quote from a speech of the