

also bring on dangerous international complications. Why, indeed, should we expose ourselves to see the control of the St. Lawrence river pass into foreign hands. The whole question is of the utmost importance. It therefore, seems to me that we should include in the above mentioned commission, a number of competent engineers, clear minded business men, and especially some representatives of the large shipping companies interested in the real progress of our river navigation and the financial success of the magnificent port of Montreal. In their eagerness to seize their prey, the promoters of this canal scheme have unskilfully hidden their secret intentions, by dangling before the eyes of the western farmer, the spectacle of an Aquitania majestically sailing over lake Superior to fetch and carry its cargo of wheat destined for Liverpool. Indeed, everybody knows now that it would be the water powers which would be developed along the water course between Kingston and Montreal, which is the sole aim of a propaganda so ingeniously contrived. The government will know how to deal with such rapacity.

Before, however, starting negotiations for a treaty relating to this proposed canal system, would it not be in the interest of the country to make a supplementary survey of the Georgian Bay canal scheme, would it not be better to encourage rather this truly national undertaking which, while contributing to the development of all the water powers required by eastern Ontario, would remain under Canada's control?

And since we are discussing water powers, let us hope that the Dominion government will look into that vital question: the proposed diversion of the waters of lake Michigan into the canal system of Chicago. If this diversion took place, it would become a real menace to the port of Montreal, and also to all the water powers already established between the Great Lakes and the gulf of St. Lawrence. These are all most serious problems.

But there are others which call for all the watchfulness of the Canadian government, and immigration is one of them.

So far as I am concerned, Sir, I shall heartily approve the government immigration policy, as long as that policy,—which I have no reason to doubt,—will continue to favour the coming of desirable immigrants. Already the benefit of a well-selected immigration has made itself felt through the whole country, and I am satisfied that no one needs to brood over the kind of immigration which

[Mr. Lapierre.]

is directed at present towards the Canadian west. We need immigration if we wish to develop efficiently our vast western territories which, within a few years, will become the most favoured region for European immigrants.

However, if on the one hand, we are to welcome a healthy foreign immigration, on the other hand the government must help us to stem the continuous exodus of our youth, and especially that of our French Canadian youths towards the neighbouring republic. The depopulation of our rural districts has, indeed, become a national scourge against which we cannot too strongly react. That is to say, the present government must take the necessary measures to retain those of our people who, attracted by vain illusions, might have had the momentary weakness of forsaking the sacred soil of their ancestors.

Before resuming my seat, let me here state very clearly, Sir, that if this task does appear difficult it certainly is not beyond the scope of the government's means of action. The people have full confidence in the ability, integrity and patriotism of those who are at present in charge of their destinies, and it is not without reason that the Canadian people feel themselves perfectly secure. Guided by a valiant and wise leader, an economist, coupled with a statesman and, who is besides advised by able and devoted lieutenants, the Canadian government cannot fail to rise to the height of the lofty purposes it has in view. Moreover, inspired by the wise and grand traditions bequeathed to it by the Great Deceased, the Liberal party will pursue its upward trend towards the accomplishment of its ideals, and it will as well guide this Canada of ours towards its immortal destinies.

I have the honour to second the motion of the hon. member for Cape Breton North and Victoria (Mr. Kelly).

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, it is my duty and my privilege to be first to congratulate the mover (Mr. Kelly) and the seconder (Mr. Lapierre) of the Address this afternoon on the acceptable way in which they have performed a none-too-easy task. All of us recall how trying is the ordeal when a new member first addresses this House. Sometimes the ordeal does not become very much mitigated with custom, but nevertheless the first is the most trying, and the success of the hon. members I acknowledge freely and compliment them thereupon. Possibly in respect particularly of the hon. member for