

heard on the hustings for eighteen years has been removed and we have the satisfaction of finding the party in power exultant over the prosperous treasury and the abundant assets we have left in their hands. The Liberal party has a record of which they have reason to be proud. My hon. friend has spoken of immigration and welcomed the increasing population that comes to us from all parts of the world. In another part of his speech he reminded us that we do not know sufficiently of the splendid riches we possess from Lake Superior to the Rockies and what they represent in possibilities. I may tell him that in another field, the hon. member may not know all that is going on in other parts of the country in the way of political activity. Immigration has flowed into this country for the last twelve or fourteen years. The Liberal government did good work in bringing about that result and I may inform my hon. friend that during the last ten years the Liberal party, which had brought about that increase of population, was assailed in every corner of my good old province of Quebec because it was doing such effective work in that direction. From Mr. Monk down, on every hustings, we were assailed for bringing in too large a population which we could not assimilate and transform easily into Canadians. In 1896, following the footsteps of our predecessors, efforts were made by the Liberal government to bring population into our Northwest. We all know what time it took to persuade even assisted immigrants to remain within our borders and not to cross the line, but by intelligent methods, by systematic advertisement in Europe and in the Northwestern States, immigrants began to come into the country. No one thought then of making a very stiff selection. We were ready to welcome all comers, but as the tide of immigration increased we felt from year to year that we should watch very carefully what class of immigrants we admitted to the country, and I am quite satisfied that the present government have felt, during the last twelve months, that our immigration laws could not be improved upon. Our legislation has become more strict from year to year and it is to be hoped that our country

is protected against undesirable immigrants. All the same, if the present government can still further improve the Immigration Act, I am sure this House will be happy to help them in perfecting such measures as they may introduce.

I said I would address myself to but a couple of questions, and one of them as my hon. friend has said, bulks very largely in the public imagination, that is the question of naval defence. There was a movement during last summer, initiated somewhere around Toronto or Winnipeg, to secure the co-operation of all patriotic Canadians in removing this burning and all-important question from party politics. I would draw the attention of hon. gentlemen who feel that this is too large a question to be treated as a party question, that there was a moment in our history when we all stood together, when we all agreed upon the necessity of removing this question from party politics. It was on the 29th of March, 1909, when every member of the House of Commons joined in voting the following resolution:

This House fully recognizes the duty of the people of Canada, as they increase in numbers and wealth, to assume in large measure the responsibilities of national defence.

This House is of opinion that under the present constitutional relations between the mother country and the self-governing dominions, the payment of regular and periodical contributions to the Imperial Treasury for naval and military purposes would not, so far as Canada is concerned, be the most satisfactory solution of the question of defence.

The House will cordially approve of any necessary expenditure designed to promote the speedy organization of a Canadian Naval Service in co-operation with and in close relation to the Imperial Conference, and in full sympathy with the view that naval supremacy of Britain is essential to the security of commerce, the safety of the empire and the peace of the world.

The House expresses its firm conviction that whenever the need arises the Canadian people will be found ready and willing to make any sacrifice that is required to give to the Imperial authorities the most loyal and hearty co-operation in every movement for the maintenance of the integrity and honour of the empire.

This was voted unanimously. Both parties joined in this patriotic resolution which was acclaimed by the whole population of Canada. The resolution was prefaced by