

than in that way which develops the resources and sharpens the people of both countries. It is quite true that some impetuous member of Congress may say hard things of Canada; but take the great masses of the population of the United States, of the fifty millions of people who occupy that country, certainly nine-tenths of them feel generously towards Canada; and although they may in Congress, during the present Session, annul the fishery clauses of the Washington Treaty, they do not do it in an unfriendly spirit, but because they think they were outwitted by Canada on a former occasion. The feeling is fast growing with that people, and I think with the people of this country, that the time is not far distant when the commercial relations between the two peoples will be more intimate. I think that is a day that we should all wish for the early approach of.

The next paragraph of the Address adverts to the steady flow of settlers into Manitoba and the North-West, and to the increase of immigration. We are all glad to know that, and we hope that this year there will be an additional increase. But this subject of immigration is not one that is controlled in any way by us. Our efforts are very pigmian in diverting the flow of emigration from the old world to this country. We may appoint agents and publish unlimited pamphlets setting forth the inducements offered by this country to settlers, but the real factor in forcing emigration to America is one that we can in no way affect; it is the oppression there, the scarcity of employment and the high price of bread, and the knowledge that a change from the old to the new world will bring increase of wealth and give advantages to a young family that are not to be had in the older countries. You will find Canada gets about her fair proportion of the emigration to this continent. If we run over the statistics of the last ten years we must come to the conclusion that it is neither the efforts of one government nor the efforts of another that stimulated or retarded by its policy this emigration to Canada. You will find the increase pretty nearly in the same ratio year by year. If the emigration to the United States was large in any year, ours was correspondingly large. We know that more people left Europe last year than in any other for this

continent. Nearly one million of people left the old world and sought homes on this continent last year of whom we probably got our fair share. We have, in the ratio both of population and of land, attractions equal to if not greater than those offered in the United States; therefore it is but reasonable that we should get our share of the tide that flows across the Atlantic, but the causes of that tide, as I said before, are almost entirely beyond our control. Of course, it is our duty to advocate, in every possible way we can, the advantages that Canada can offer, but at the same time it is not our acts that give rise to the tide of emigration; it is due only to causes that prevail on the other side of the ocean.

The paragraph of the Address which adverts to the necessity for a uniform franchise, is one that does not meet, at all events, with my approval. I have not heard that there was any demand on the part of the people of this country that this franchise should be altered. I was under the impression that it was working satisfactorily. It certainly, as far as the administration of the day are concerned, worked very satisfactorily to them during the last election. They ought not to be afraid to trust the people who have given them so large an assurance of confidence as they have received from the people of the Dominion. How is this franchise to be fixed? Are we to level up to the level of Ontario, or are we to level down to the basis of Prince Edward Island, where it is very nearly manhood suffrage.

We have no power over the institutions of the provinces. We cannot delegate to them powers, because they are not creatures of ours; we do not create them, they are entirely independent of us. I think myself it would have been very much better to leave the franchise as it stands, and allow it to be regulated by the several provinces. If it is to be fixed by a commission issued by the Government of the day, then I have very little faith in the result of any such tribunal. Of course, in anticipation of the machinery that may be employed, and of the basis that is proposed, it is impossible for me to predict what the evils or advantages might be; but I can say that the present system is working satisfactorily. The Government of the Dominion has at all events been an indifferent factor in the fixing of the franchise and in the preparation of the voter's list,