

under the hammer they went for \$20. He went back and got the other two and they brought \$15; or, in other words, the four horses, good animals, were sold for \$35. The next article put up was a second-hand wagon which had been in use for five or six years. When the auctioneer called for bids the first offer was \$25, which was increased by bids of \$5 until the bidding stopped at \$40. Then the auctioneer made a little speech, to this effect. He said: "Gentlemen, what would a wagon cost you if you bought it new to-day? Put a little paint on this wagon and it will be as good as new." The bidding was resumed and the wagon finally brought \$90. Now, here were four good horses which were sold for \$35, while an old second hand wagon could fetch \$90. I do not think it is necessary to dwell on the point further. However, I would ask the hon. member for Hants (Mr. Martell) who stated a few moments ago that there were a large number of unsaleable apples in his constituency, why they do not bring them to Ottawa and sell them, where they are retailing at five cents apiece.

Following out the theory of industrial expansion which this country has experienced, I would point out that by 1912 a certain amount of distress in our business operations had become apparent. In 1913 and the early part of 1914 the conditions were rapidly becoming worse, and by the time the war broke out we had practically the same conditions in Canada that we have to-day. Of course, since that time we have added materially to our public debt, and in that respect the condition has become a little more acute. I notice that if you speak about this matter to a banker in western Canada he will say it is the manufacturer who is to blame—that they have kept their prices so high that the people are unable to buy their goods; and if you speak to a manufacturer he will say that the bankers and loan companies are to blame because they lent money at exorbitant rates of interest which it required all the production of the country to pay. That is another case of "passing the buck," somewhat the same as the ex-government and the present government do in evading responsibility. I believe that government has one function to perform, that is, seeing that there is fair play as between the different classes of the people. If they are going to extend advantages to any it should be to the weak, to those who are unable to look after themselves—these should receive first consideration. That, however, has not been the case in the past. Any patronage that has gone out has invariably gone out to the big concerns, to

those who are well able to look after themselves.

Speaking yesterday afternoon, the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Carroll), referring to conditions in the West, produced a telegram from the East Edmonton U.F.A. an organization with which I have the honour to be connected, that had inspired a letter which he seemed to question the truth of. I take it that he was trying to argue that the West had had a very big crop last year. I have here a report from the Alberta government covering the crop averages in that province. It states that in respect of spring wheat there was an average crop of 11.40 bushels to the acre; of winter wheat, 11.60 bushels; of oats, 21.50 bushels; of barley, 14.90 bushels; of rye, 10.30 bushels.

With regard to the matter of a suggested immigration policy, I would like to quote what the present provincial government is sending out in regard to the conference recently held in this city respecting immigration. The statement says:

Hon. R. G. Reid, Minister of Health and Municipal Affairs, returned last week from Ottawa where he attended the conference of Dominion and provincial cabinet ministers on the problem of immigration. Mr. Reid made it plain to the conference that Alberta was not in a position to encourage any wholesale immigration at the present time but was prepared to absorb new settlers with sufficient capital to establish themselves. He also pointed out that the province was seeking irrigation farmers particularly for the new irrigation districts being opened up in the south.

If the reports we get about Canada being in the most favourable position of any country in the world are true, what is the sense of our going to other countries and trying to get farmers to come in here who have money? I do not see that there is any country you can go to with much hope of getting them. Every country has unoccupied farm lands. Most assuredly the United States has them; every country in Europe has them. There is no doubt that any persons in these countries who wanted to farm could find a good opportunity to do so in their own home land, and if we transplant them to Canada there is little prospect of their remaining here very long. Probably seventy-five per cent of the people who live in our urban centres to-day have had experience in farming, and the reason they are not on the farms to-day is because they tried it and found it did not pay, so they moved off.

Canada is a young man's country, a strong man's country. We cannot afford to take any class of people who may wish to come here. The only men who can hope to make good in our country are men who are physically robust and strong.