

In connection with the question of immigration, I wish also to say that it is most gratifying indeed to find such a large number of Americans coming over to this country to make for themselves here happy and peaceful homes. They are a most desirable class of settlers, they are thoroughly familiar with the conditions which confront them on their arrival, and it is gratifying to know that those who have already come into this country have taken kindly to our institutions, and that they are making the very best class of settlers that we have. Whilst we all have an abiding faith in Canada and her institutions, and have the fullest confidence in her ability and capacity to absorb and assimilate all nationalities and all classes that may come to her shores, and that they will become good peaceable and contented citizens generally, all working together towards the common goal—the making of Canada into a great nation—still it is most satisfactory to know that a very large proportion of the immigrants we received during the past year were of British origin; and there is good reason to hope that still larger numbers of this class of immigrants will avail themselves of the splendid opportunities open to them in this country. Every steamer from the old country is loaded with immigrants from England, Scotland and Ireland. The immigration buildings at St. John and Halifax are indeed busy scenes when these steamers arrive. Cars loaded with colonists are being sent out westward conveying this immense immigration that is coming to our shores. Instead of our present population of six or seven millions. I do not hesitate to predict that in another decade Canada's population will reach fifteen, twenty or twenty-five millions.

Reference is made in the speech from the Throne to the taking over of the garrison at Halifax by the Dominion government, and making provision for the defence of Esquimalt. Sir, these are matters of historic interest. For one hundred and fifty years Halifax has been garrisoned by imperial troops. The last of these troops left our shores a few days ago. In some quarters we hear it alleged that Canada is recreant to her duty in the matter of defence, that she does not seem ready to assume her proper share of responsibility in contributing to the army and navy. It is indeed said that we are sponging on the British government in accepting the protection of her army and navy while refusing to contribute to their support. Mr. Speaker, nothing could be more incorrect. It is true we are not contributing directly to the imperial exchequer, but we are doing our duty, we are paying our way. Whilst we are grateful to Great Britain for the protection her army and navy affords us, and whilst we appreciate all that Great Britain is doing for us in that respect, still we do not by any means receive this pro-

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tection as a charity or as a gratuity. We have done our duty manfully and well. Those who misrepresent Canada by saying that she does not bear her just proportion of the burden of national defence, I would refer to the speech of Sir Charles Tupper before the British Empire League in Ottawa in 1898. On that occasion he alluded to the fact that at the time of confederation, when commissioners went across to the old country to negotiate with the imperial authorities, the commissioners being Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir George Brown and Sir George Etienne Cartier. They discussed the relations between Canada and the imperial authorities, or rather the obligations that Canada should assume with respect to her defence; and an agreement was made in writing that if a million dollars a year was spent by Canada on her militia, England with all the power of her army and navy, would be ready to assist Canada on all occasions and to protect her interests. Well, Sir, what has Canada done? Not only has she spent a million dollars a year on her militia, but she has done far more. In building the Canadian Pacific Railway, without one dollar of imperial aid, Canada has contributed towards imperial defence, because Great Britain is now able to send troops over the Canadian Pacific Railway to man her fleets on the Pacific ocean. Without the Canadian Pacific Railway she would be unable to do so. The importance of the Canadian Pacific Railway in that connection was then pointed out by Sir Charles Tupper, and it has also been recognized by the Hon. Joseph Chamberlain in some of his speeches on imperial federation. But Canada has done more than that. She is now building a national transcontinental railway, and the benefit which the Canadian Pacific Railway has been to Great Britain in the manner I have alluded to, will be doubled by the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific. More than that, Canada has shown that she is ready and willing, when the occasion occurs to assist the mother country, and assist her most generously, as she did on the occasion of the South African war, when Canada sent thousands of her men to reinforce the imperial troops. Therefore, I say, that to-day we find that Canada is doing her duty, not, as I said before, by contributing directly to the imperial exchequer, but by taking upon herself a portion of the burden of defending this country, and by relieving the British government from the cost of garrisoning Halifax and Esquimalt. The cost of garrisoning Halifax and of providing for the defence of Esquimalt will be in the vicinity of a million dollars. It will cost about \$800,000 to feed and maintain the men and another \$200,000 to maintain the fortifications; so that we are really relieving the British government to the extent of an additional million dollars annually by taking over these burdens. Canada does not