

the difficulties they have in the West; in fact I know he is sincere. But at the same time I could not forget that we had his active opposition while we fought, during the last session of parliament, for a reduction of the freight rates last fall. Perhaps it is a little hard on him to bring that up at the present time. At the same time I think it is just as well to remember those things.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I have no objection to the hon. member bringing the matter up, if he is faithful to the facts. I did not oppose any reduction of rates, but I opposed the House doing what parliament had delegated to another institution.

Mr. FORKE: The effect was exactly the same anyway. However, we will let that pass. Mention is also made in the Speech from the Throne of the question of immigration. I know that this is a very difficult subject to deal with. A great deal of criticism is coming to the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Stewart), because he has been slow in making a move in this direction. I do not know that I will blame him very much for trembling on the brink a little before he makes a plunge. However, I think he might talk just a little less about it, if nothing is going to be done, because the people have been looking for quite a long while to see that stream of immigrants, that has been so much talked about, begin to flow into the country. There is a good deal of diffidence among the people of the West in regard to the matter of immigration, and if we are holding a meeting in the western provinces and mention the matter of immigration, we are immediately met with the statement, Why are you going to bring more people here when the people already here are not contented with their position? However, Mr. Speaker, I believe in immigration, and I think that immigration will help us out of a great many of our difficulties. Whatever our conditions in Canada are to-day, if we look abroad, to the Motherland or to Europe, we find conditions a great deal worse than in Canada, and I do not think we need have very much compunction in asking people to leave these countries and come to take up their lot with us. They are not, to say the least of it, coming to any worse conditions. However, notwithstanding all our difficulty, I am optimistic enough to believe that unfavourable conditions in Canada are not going to last. We have not lost faith in our country. We are having hard times in the prairie provinces, but I have not lost faith in those provinces. This year in the West we had a splendid crop, a magnificent crop, and no fault could be found with the country.

The country is just as good as it ever was. The trouble was on account of economic conditions, artificial conditions, and some of them world conditions, that no one could possibly help; but we believe that these conditions are going to change, and that this great country is going to be prosperous once again. And to make it prosperous we must have capital and we must have people.

Lord Shaw, speaking in Dunfermline, Scotland, after he went back from Canada, said it was almost ridiculous to think of eight and a half or nine million people occupying half a continent, rich in natural resources, yet unable to take possession of those riches, just because they had neither the means nor the people to do it, and I believe that with increased population, with increased capital, if we can possibly get it, all of us, those who are here now and those who come here, will be in better condition. I sometimes think, when we speak of our great natural resources in Canada, that we are like the small boy who sees something well worth the having but just a little out of his reach, and he cannot obtain it. That is exactly the position we are in to-day with the great resources we have in Canada. We cannot develop them or get hold of them, because we have neither the means nor the people. I believe immigration would help our trouble to a very large extent, but the difficulty arises here: Where are you going to get the millions of people with money to come here and establish themselves in the agricultural districts of Canada? I am sorry to say that I do not believe we are going to get many immigrants of that class. I may be wrong, but I do not think so. If we look to the country to the south of us, where we are likely to get the very best class of immigrants, what is the situation? I hardly like to say it, but under present conditions we find on this side of the line that the cost of living is higher than it is on the other side of the line, and the price of agricultural products on the other side of the line is higher than in this country. What is the inducement to bring those people here under present conditions? That is one of the difficulties we have to meet, and we may just as well face it. I saw another statement—I do not know whether it was correct or not—that the Anglo-Saxon people were not an agricultural people. That perhaps may explain the trend of the people towards the city, and if you go into the States the large percentage of the farmers is not of English or French descent, but is largely German, Scandinavian and other European nationalities. I give the House that statement for what it is worth. At the same