

\$814,000,000:¹ a very modest increase it must be admitted for a rapidly expanding country such as Canada.

The period 1903-13 being one of rapid expansion of railroads and other public works, we find that the railroad mileage in operation had increased from 18,988 to 29,304, or 54 per cent, while the gross earnings increased from \$96,000,000 to \$256,500,000, an increase of 166 per cent.²

Some consideration is necessary as to just how the expansion indicated in these typical statistics affected the country as a whole and in its several parts. Also in what condition it left the country to meet the revolutionary economic changes occasioned by the outbreak of the war. The first great factor is of course the enormous increase of immigration which occurred during the period in question, amounting to 2,276,252. Even allowing that a considerable number of the immigrants did not remain long in the country, the United States returns showing an immigration from Canada to the United States during the same period of 363,614,³ still the total increase of the population was very large and involved a great stimulus to the economic expansion of the country. It is an interesting fact that the great majority of these immigrants came to Canada with the professed purpose of settling on the land. The Canadian government had solemnly pledged itself by Act of Parliament and in the interests chiefly of the trade unions to assist only two classes of immigrants, viz.: those going on the land and those entering domestic service. General observation, however, supported by the census returns of 1911, indicates that the great majority of the immigrants, from Great Britain at least, went into the towns and cities. They were accompanied also by a good many from the older districts of the eastern provinces of Canada and

¹ Public Accounts, 1916, p. 26.

² Report of Trade and Commerce, 1916, Part IV, p. 47.

³ From statistics furnished by Canadian immigration officials.