

Our population has been increasing rapidly with a better class of emigrants than came to our shores a few years ago, and while complaints have been made as to the correctness of the recent census in many portions of the Dominion and disappointment expressed at the returns in many of our cities and towns, still on the whole the increase in population is fairly satisfactory, and the prospects in the future in this respect are of the brightest.

There is possibly no measure that has been foreshadowed in the speech from the Throne of greater importance to the country as a whole than that relating to the improvement of our highways. The Dominion government has assisted largely in the building of three transcontinental railways which are now constructed or under way of construction and which have been, and will be of great service to the Dominion of Canada, but as the great proportion of the products of the farmer have first to be hauled over our country turnpike roads is it not of first importance that the cost of this transportation be reduced to a minimum by the improvement of our highways? I am informed that in England it costs eight cents per ton per mile to haul produce over their country roads while in Canada it costs about 26 cents per ton per mile. Would it be unreasonable for me to suggest to the government the propriety of building a transcontinental highway and maintaining the same; then arranging with the provinces to build and maintain side roads at certain distances and arranging with the counties in each province to build and maintain the cross roads and concession lines; to have all roads up to a certain standard? If this were done the advent of the automobile will attract a great number of tourists to Canada. And with the Dominion, provincial and municipal governments co-operating towards this end, substantial progress should be made within the course of the next few years. Good roads mean increased facilities for trade, larger traffic, more intimate relations socially and in business between our peoples, to say nothing of the additional pleasure and comfort derived therefrom.

Canada is largely an agricultural country, and when the agricultural industry is pros-

perous that prosperity will be reflected and extended to all other classes. It is therefore gratifying to know that it is the intention of the government to further aid that basic industry of the country, and thus encourage the young men to remain on the farm, and to afford him every opportunity to be educated along the lines of intensive and scientific farming which will bring him better returns for his labour and render his occupation one of greater attraction.

In accordance with the promise of the Prime Minister made when leader of the opposition, it is the intention to appoint a permanent tariff commission to deal with all matters relating to the tariff. This action it is hoped will do away with many inequalities now existing, and after a careful investigation of all those features which should be taken into consideration in the formation of the tariff, such as cost of production, wages, &c., we trust that greater fairness to all parties, producers and consumers alike, may result; greater stability, a more scientific tariff that will encourage home production with sufficient internal competition to ensure fair prices to all parties concerned.

Reference has also been made to the Hudson Bay railway, and it is only right before entering upon this important work that definite knowledge should be secured as to the best route to the bay, and the best harbour at its terminal. The road will prove a great benefit, especially to western Canada, and when the route has been finally decided upon it should be prosecuted with energy, as with increasing population and a greater area under cultivation year after year, the transportation of our best products will prove a great problem indeed.

The taking over of the terminal elevators is another most important measure, which is to be provided for by legislation at this session of parliament. Abuses have arisen in connection with the marketing of the grain by which mixing has taken place to the consequent deterioration of its quality; and after repeated experiments by legislation to do away with those abuses, but without success, it is now deemed necessary to make provision for the operation of the terminal elevators by means of a Commission with wide powers which it is hoped

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