

Our own necessities happen to be on the same lines as the necessities of humanity, and it is our duty to preach, and continue to preach, the gospel of arbitration between peoples. It is not an easy matter for the great nations to forego their power and place themselves on a level with the smaller nations before a world court, but I cannot help thinking that it is the only way in which we can make any advance towards permanent peace throughout the world.

Reverting to the speech from the Throne, my honourable friend (Hon. W. B. Ross) has expressed the hope that we may carry into effect the whole of the Duncan Report. I would point out to him that, though preaching economy and a reduction in taxation, he has expressed his approval of a larger expenditure towards meeting the needs of the Maritime Provinces. He will have to consider with similar sympathy, the claims of other provinces or other parts of the Dominion and recognize the necessity of some expenditures which may prevent taxation from being reduced as rapidly as it would if we were not obliged to meet those many demands on the Federal exchequer. He will have also noticed in the Speech from the Throne that consideration is being given to the railway problems of the several provinces, as outlined at the conference. This again may require some capital expenditure, the need for which will be left to the wisdom of the two branches of Parliament.

The question of immigration is not an easy one. My honourable friend said that instead of money being spent in a search for immigrants an effort should be made to retain farmers' sons upon the land. That, I may say, is but a pious wish. I would like my honourable friend to try to devise a scheme whereby that could be done. I have myself devoted considerable time to the effort to keep farmers' sons on the land by offering them farming land outside their own neighbourhood where they could thrive and raise a family. I have suggested that printed forms should be distributed throughout the country, to postmasters, mayors and secretary-treasurers of municipalities, that they should fill in with the names of any persons whom they heard had any sort of inclination or intention to leave the country, and that the Departments in the provinces or at Ottawa should offer such persons some alternative solution of their difficulty which would keep them here. This plan has been carried out in various ways and applied in different districts, but there will always be, as there has always been, that powerful magnet on the other side attracting our population.

I have heard the argument that in the course of a year we had brought into this country hundreds of thousands of immigrants, but that in the end we were no farther ahead—that we had barely maintained our population by natural increase. If we lost one hundred thousand persons in a year and did not in the same period replace them with a like number of newcomers, there would undoubtedly be a net loss. At all events, if we are to lose 100,000 of our people in a year, there is some consolation in feeling that we are attracting a similar number from abroad and that our population is not diminishing.

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: They are not of the same class.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: If my honourable friend can find a way—and none has been found in the last fifty years—to prevent the movement of population from one side of the line across to the other, I would like to hear him suggest what would remedy the evil. There will always be that movement. It is not peculiar to Canada. It is not a movement that is special to Canada. If my honourable friend will go through Europe he will find that there is a similar movement between various bordering nations. We are doing well. The prosperity of the country generally and of the West particularly, is the greatest incentive to immigrants to come in, and I am happy to think that we are entering an era which may bring in and retain a couple of hundred thousand immigrants a year. We had that condition from 1900 to 1913, and the number of immigrants increased to three or four hundred thousand. I hope that that volume of immigration will go on increasing, and if we can only satisfy the farming community and make them happy on the land, I really believe the successful farmer will prove to be the best immigration agent we have in the country. If the immigrants in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta are satisfied with their lot, they will write to their friends and relatives in the British Islands, and the immigration which we obtained during the pre-war period will start again and go on increasing. I think we have reason to feel that there is no occasion for despair in regard to the conditions which exist in the country today. All who have an eye on the general conditions in Canada feel that we are entering upon better times, or have already done so, and I hope that, with the help of Providence, prosperity will continue to be maintained in this Dominion.

Hon. RUFUS H. POPE: Honourable gentlemen, as it has always been the privilege, I rise