

worth, or a balance against us of \$1,086,767. Nothing will more clearly, more rigidly and more unanswerably illustrate the success of the government's immigration policy. The United States immigration figures show that the population of this country is going over to the United States at a rate which is increasing every month. That was the case throughout 1922; in later months the figures run up to almost eight thousand per month. That, by the way, is the cause—I regret to have to say that it is the main cause—of the diminution of unemployment in the larger cities of this country to-day. Well, the government takes to itself credit in the Speech from the Throne for the reduction of the unemployment figures as compared with those of a year ago. They would be more frank and more fair with this country if they explained that unemployment has gone down because the artisans of Canada have gone across to American cities where they are getting work that they cannot obtain in this Dominion.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Hon. gentlemen opposite say, "hear hear"; they are apparently quite glad to increase the figures of our export, even though it is the export of manhood and of settlers' effects. No, the situation in Canada to-day has not improved over that of a year ago. I do not think all these things are attributable to government; I have never argued that. There are some things government can do; this government has not turned a hand to make work for a single individual in this Dominion. No policy can they point to that has brought meals to the mouths of the labourers of this country, no policy can they point to that has brought a taxpayer into this country to share the load we carry now. They sit in office,—well, I do not know that it is quite fair to say that they always sit; they did travel considerably. At all events, they enjoy the honours of office; but a Speech from the Throne that contained something of a specific policy designed to check the flow of emigration, designed to enhance the flow of immigration, designed to reduce the taxation of those who are here, designed to bring work and food to the people of this country—that would be a Speech from the Throne more welcome to the people than anything we find in the document now before us.

There was, however, mention of certain subjects in the Speech from the Throne twelve months ago upon which the government is conspicuously silent now. Hon. members—especially hon. members to my left and

others interested in western Canada—will recall the note of triumph with which it was announced in the government press—yes, by the government itself—that the long-standing question of the return of the natural resources to the western provinces had at last been solved at the hands of this administration. Here was a question that had baffled ministers of mediocre talent in the days that had gone. Year after year incompetent men had struggled with it, but now a new government had come to power and in the space of a few short weeks had solved this intricate question by the application of the spirit of justice and of equality; and the Speech from the Throne pronounced that already a solution, or what was hoped would be a solution, had been sent forward to the premiers of the western country. In the interim the suggestion had been made—and it had already been accepted by the then premier of Manitoba—that if in the application of the principle of equality, when they all got together later on to solve the natural resources problem, any difficulty should arise, a tribunal should be erected to determine, upon a principle of accounting, just how these difficulties should be resolved. And so the announcement went forth that at length that could be decided; the question would be off the skyline of Canadian politics, solved by the superior talent of the present administration. There is no mention of it, Mr. Speaker, in the Speech from the Throne this year. Does it mean that the prophecy or the promise of a year ago is fulfilled and the sky-line clear of the question? No; the question stands exactly where it stood when they came into office, save and except that they have messed it and retarded it. Not one foot of progress has been made: nothing was done whatever save the holding of a futile conference from which each participant went forth to say that he came down, discussed, and went home in vain. All indeed, that happened was this: a provincial election was approaching in Manitoba. It was important for the political associate of my right hon. friend the Prime Minister that he go back with the solution of the natural resources question in his pocket, and so between them they contrived that this concoction of verbiage should be tried upon a credulous public. The people should be told that the two prime ministers had met and had decided to settle the whole matter merely by the introduction of the great principle of equality as between the citizen of Manitoba and the citizen of the rest of Canada. Precisely, Mr. Speaker, as if two litigants had long struggled before a judge on the bench for the ascertainment of their