

against an average for the last few years of 30,000 to 40,000. Take the volume of trade and commerce for the Dominion. In 1874 this had touched \$217,000,000. In 1896, with an increased population of one million, it was barely \$239,000,000, being a considerable reduction per capita, and a total growth in twenty-two years of just one million a year; and in 1911-12 it was over \$650,000,000. But take an infinitely more important and conclusive test. The total population of the various provinces constituting the Dominion was about 3,600,000 in 1866. In 1896, if the truth was known, it was barely 4,800,000; that is to say, in thirty years Canada, with an almost boundless area of unoccupied land, had barely added forty thousand people a year to her population, immigrants included.

REPORTER. You attach special importance to this?

SIR RICHARD. In a country like Canada I do. Analyze this statement and compare our growth with that of the United States during the first thirty years of their existence, say from 1790 to 1820, and you will see what it means.

REPORTER. You have done this, I presume?

SIR RICHARD. I have, and the record is of interest to every man who wishes to form a correct idea of how Canada was faring during those 30 years. In 1790 the population of the United States was 3,929,000, very nearly the same as our own at Confederation. In 1820 it was 9,633,000, of whom a very small portion were immigrants; that is to say, starting nearly at the same number, the United States had gained nearly six millions in the time in which we had increased by 1,200,000, of whom a very large percentage were immigrants. Now in 1790 the United States had recently emerged from a war with Great Britain which had utterly ruined their commerce and left them all but bankrupt. In those days communication was very slow and very difficult. Till after 1820 there was no immigration from Europe of any consequence. They had another very costly war in 1812, and their settlers all along their frontier had to fight every inch of their way against powerful and warlike Indian tribes. To us, on