

the point of a gun pressed against its political stomach by the Progressive party, it is placing this country at the economic mercy of the United States. Today all over this country factories are closing down. Men and women are being thrown out of employment. Towns and communities are being depopulated. Farmers are being deprived of their home market. Canadian capital, that ought to be going into the development of the country, is being put into banks or bonds. British and foreign capital is being frightened away from the Dominion. There is unrest and uncertainty from Sydney to Vancouver. And what is happening to the young manhood of this country? At the rate of 10,000 a month, our young men, discouraged by what is taking place at home, deprived of opportunities at home, are fleeing over the border to rear higher the prosperity of a foreign land. The government cannot deny this. If they do deny it, if they challenge the truth of what I have just asserted, then let them look at their own official statement of the Settlers' effects that have come into and gone out of this country during the past two years. Let them study the figures as told in their own official blue books. The other day Mr. Grant MacNeil, Dominion secretary of the Great War Veterans' Association, addressed a meeting in the city of Ottawa. In the public press I read this report of that address:

Describing the Canadian immigration effort for 1923 as a "gigantic debacle", C. G. MacNeil, Dominion secretary of the G.W.V.A., presented some startling statistics to a meeting in St. Matthias' Parish Hall Saturday evening under the auspices of Flanders Lodge No. 1, L.O.L.

Quoting from Canadian and United States official records, Mr. MacNeil showed that during 1923, a total of 137,320 people had been brought into Canada from all sources, while 182,369 had entered the United States from Canada during the same period.

"We presented United States with a quota equivalent to our total immigration and 45,000 of our resident citizens in addition", he declared. "Why should the United States worry about immigration while the magnanimous Canada taxpayer is willing to spend about \$80 per head for the privilege of delivering the very best of immigrants within the doors of that republic."

In his opening remarks Mr. MacNeil said that for some time past Canadian ex-service men as represented in the G.W.V.A. had viewed with growing alarm the increasing exodus to the United States. With branches of the association everywhere reporting removals an investigation had been undertaken. This had revealed that nearly one-third of the overseas strength of the C.E.F. had crossed the border. In consultation with immigration officials it had been found that this movement was regarded as a species of restlessness and that it was thought these people would return eventually.

"We have been thoroughly disillusioned on this score," said the speaker. "Canadian ex-service men have migrated to the United States for no other reason than to secure their bread and butter. Conditions have not been righted and as the years pass the prospects of their return rapidly fade."

"The most popular retort to any statement depicting this exodus is that all the Canadians are returning or are about to return. Let us again examine the official statistics. Included in the Canadian immigration total for 1923 are 20,307 people who entered Canada from the United States. We find that of this number only 2,587 had previous Canadian residence. It is clear that we have not recouped our losses, and that there is little joy in the quality of the negligible number received by Canada in exchange.

"We need not search far for the men to roam afield for a livelihood. It is disclosed in the returns of the industrial census of Canada issued by the Bureau of Statistics, that for every 100 men employed in our industries in January, 1920, only 88 were employed in January, 1924. Employment has decreased by 12 per cent. We have no industrial expansion to provide employment for newcomers, and we have experienced a contraction of payrolls that has squeezed our men out of the country."

Mr. MacNeil said that in the face of these facts there was an insistent clamor from influential quarters for greater immigration. This was touted as a panacea for all economic ills.

"Can we safely continue to pour population through our country into the United States, which at the same time is washing away the elements of our own structure? Shall we strive for national stability, or shall we proceed with this mad attempt at exploitation of population turnover?"

That, Mr. Speaker, is the considered opinion of a man who has investigated the facts, who is speaking with information and without political bias. The situation which he discloses is a grave one; and I say to this House that unless the people of this country wake up, unless they determine to abolish this eternal political tampering with the tariff and give Canada a sound policy of ample protection, that drain upon our national life will continue until it becomes a veritable menace to our national existence. What we want in Canada is a tariff policy that will develop our own country, that will build up our own towns and cities, that will provide a home market for our farmers and traffic for our railways, a policy that will keep our young people at home and bring the right kind of immigration to our shores; a policy, in a word, which will do for Canada what protection has done and is doing for the United States. To-day the financial position of this country gives cause for grave concern. We have a debt which stands at \$2,400,000,000—representing a fixed charge of \$130,000,000 a year upon the people of the Dominion. We have a scale of taxation which, largely because of the extravagance of this government, has been continued at a war peak, and which is about the heaviest taxation in the world. Our trade continues to expand, but it should not be forgotten, that our exports are swollen by a drain on our natural resources—that we are much in the position of a man who is selling his estate.