

public affairs and with each of the reductions which the Government will from time to time be able to make.

The policy announced by the Government on the subject of immigration is a further source of gratification. The greater advantages that Canada will offer to immigrants cannot but stimulate the efforts of our agents and induce agriculturists in other countries to come and avail themselves of the incomparable richness of our soil. It is agriculturists that we need. There is room in this country for millions of farmers. Our fertile lands await them and will repay them generously for their labour. In Alberta we have more than 100 million acres of arable land, of which only 11 million acres are cultivated. Is it conceivable that human beings, white men, should toil as they do in certain parts of the globe without being able to put by enough to appease the hunger of their families, while here in Canada Mother Earth, in return for their physical effort, offers them abundance and even wealth? We have often heard it said, even by our farmers: "We have enough agriculturists: what we require now are industries which will provide a home market for agricultural products." People who speak thus are egotists who care little for the future of this country. More than all else we need tillers of the soil, farmers who will constitute a home market for the absorption of manufactured goods. The more solidly this market is established, the more prosperous will be our industries. Our manufacturers must find their sustenance in the country itself before thinking of exporting their surplus goods, and this basis of support is provided by the consumers who till the soil or are engaged in the development of our other natural resources. I say, therefore, with the deepest conviction, that if we would become a prosperous nation we must in the first place encourage immigration and the placing of settlers on the land.

We have for many years deplored the exodus of large numbers of our people who have gone to the neighbouring Republic. This movement was quite natural. The disturbances and the economic movements of a great country are like the flow and ebb of the tide in their effect on the lesser population of an adjoining country. It was inevitable that after the war a great nation, possessing the largest share of the world's capital, should, like a huge magnet, attract the people of our country, the only country not protected from its influence. But we also have a magnet, which is bound to help in the repatriation of Canadians: it is the fertility

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of our soil. That, however, is not sufficient. We must still make sacrifices to bring back our Canadians from abroad. If it costs twice as much to bring back a Canadian as to bring in an immigrant from a foreign country, let us make the expenditure without hesitation. We shall ultimately save by so doing, for we know it will not be necessary to make any further outlay in order to Canadianize the repatriated Canadian, as we should have to do in the case of the foreigner. We must make sacrifices also to develop as much as possible our basic industry, agriculture. If agriculture is prosperous other industries will soon be in a similar condition. The settler and the farmer must feel contented in Canada. The best colonization agent that the country can possess is the settler who writes to his relations and friends: "I am settled in Canada and am quite contented here." Now, the Government has announced that it will submit to Parliament several measures to improve the condition of our farmers. These projects should all receive our cordial support.

One of these measures will provide for the establishment of rural credits. This subject has been discussed in the Senate at previous Sessions and I am sure that we shall give it careful and favourable consideration. It is also for the purpose of assisting the agricultural class that an Advisory Board will be formed to study the possibilities of revising the Customs Tariff with a view to lightening the burden of duties imposed on instruments of production. Our farmers will benefit further by the opening of new markets for their products through the commercial treaties arranged with other British Dominions.

There are two points in the Speech from the Throne which interest more especially the people of Western Canada. The first is that which concerns the completion of the Hudson Bay Railway. A special committee of the Senate some years ago studied this question thoroughly and recommended the completion of that line. It is to be hoped, therefore, that when this project is submitted to us it will receive the support of all who recommended it in the past.

The second measure is that which is intended to give to the Province of Alberta the ownership and administration of its natural resources. For a long time my province has claimed its rights in this respect. Our resources are almost inexhaustible. My predecessor, Hon. Jean L. Côté, whose untimely death we all regret, and who never lost an opportunity to work for the welfare