

in the county of Pictou who is going to the west, he is not satisfied to go to the neighbourhood of Winnipeg; he has the idea to get as far west as he can, and the great desire of most of them is to stop nothing short of Edmonton. That disposition is not only common to those who are moving from the older provinces of Canada, but I think it characterizes the European immigrant as well, and if we could counteract that disposition and persuade a larger proportion of them to settle in the older provinces where they could procure at nominal prices farms which are perfectly capable of supporting a family in great comfort and of giving large returns to an industrious man who knows how to farm, we would be doing our country a great deal of service. It is true that our western friends are anticipating at a very early day the time when the balance of power in this country will be west of the great lakes, and they are reminding us constantly of it in this House. While they are a very fine people and while we would not like to see them disappointed in their aspirations—possibly if we have to have masters in this country we could not desire better than they—yet, I would think that it is very important to maintain the population of the eastern provinces without diminution. While it is desirable to see the west grow up it is just as desirable to see the population kept as large as possible in the eastern provinces. There are features in the west which we have not in the east, and there are features in the east which you cannot have in the west for a long time to come. There is a far more highly organized system of living in the east, which you cannot achieve in the west except by the expenditure of time and money. Therefore it is of the highest importance to Canada that the whole object of government should not be devoted to increase the population of the west, although I admit this to be a most desirable thing. It seems to me that if an effort were made to induce a large percentage of the immigrants to make their homes in the eastern provinces, Canada would be just as well served as she is at present by directing that tide of immigration to the far west. In speaking of the east I have to include Ontario, because while at one time we, in the maritime provinces, used to speak of Ontario as the west, I find that now when you get to the real west the people there speak of Ontario as the east. There is no question at all but that Ontario, Quebec and the maritime provinces are now the eastern part of this country. The condition of affairs in the whole east is that labour and population is being drained from it rapidly either into the manufacturing centres or to the virgin lands of the west, and there is an urgent cry in eastern Canada for labour. There is not in Ontario or in any part of the older provinces, anything like the number of men who are necessary to continue

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that condition of tillage which was formerly the rule. There is an urgent demand for labour in the older provinces and through sheer want of labour, a great deal of tillage which so largely contributes to the wealth and resources of the country, is being left undone.

The eastern part of Canada to-day is absolutely suffering from want of labour. That being the case, I must say that while we are willing to do everything in our power to build up the west, we really feel that the government of Canada should not neglect the east, and that some consideration should be given to the demand of the east for more people. I do not know that the government intends to be partial; but if any one takes up one of the atlases or one of the maps that are being published, he will find that while great prominence is given to the extraordinary, wide and wealthy country of the west, the older provinces are relegated to where they really fill the position that has been described as the shreds and patches of the confederation of Canada. A map has recently been published in which the plotting is done in such a fashion that all that delightful country in which I have my home seems to be moved some hundreds of miles towards the north pole, and is represented as lying away to the north of Winnipeg, Southern Alberta and Assiniboia. It is simply a result of the map-maker's method: instead of putting the centre of the forty-ninth parallel where it ought to be, about Lake Superior, it is placed away west of that, and the consequence is that the eastern provinces are set away up towards the north, which would naturally give one the idea that if he settled in that part of Canada he would be in danger of perishing from frost. Possibly that is an unintentional misrepresentation; possibly the necessity of utilizing and developing at the earliest date that country upon which we have spent so much money has unintentionally biased the map-maker's mode of thinking and feeling and depicting Canada when it is being presented to the population of Europe, from which we draw our immigrants. While we admit the greatness of the west, and join with those who express the hope to see that western country developed to an extent which will probably in the next fifteen or twenty years be most amazing and gratifying to those who live to see the results, still it seems to me that those of us who come from the east should occasionally raise our voices in this House and insist on having a certain amount of the attention of the Department of the Interior and of the government devoted to the work of keeping the population of these eastern provinces as much as possible at home; or, if it will not stay at home, diverting it to our own Northwest, and, in place of that population, bringing into the older provinces some of the people whom we can get from the British isles or the northern countries of Europe.