

motor car, such as is the case in the province of Saskatchewan, there must be some farmers who could get out if they wanted to—they could readily use their motor cars. I find in a report issued by the government of the province last fall the following:

Saskatchewan now has one car for every twelve of its population, according to provincial government statistics. The total amount collected in license fees for the past ten years is reported as \$4,226,642, while for the same period there has been spent by the government from revenue alone \$6,918,517 in providing for the construction and maintenance of main market roads, ferries and revenue bridges. During the same period the provincial government had expended on capital account on main roads, bridges, etc., a total of \$7,870,514.

Here is a province which in ten years has spent approximately \$16,000,000 on improvements to its highways; here is a province which in the past decade has paid into the treasury \$4,226,642 in automobile license fees; here is a province in which every twelfth man owns a motor car. And yet the contributor to the *Weekly Scotsman* says that every person in the three prairie provinces would get out if he had an opportunity of doing so. I have no doubt that the farmers of the prairie provinces have probably more difficulties to contend with than any other class of people in the Dominion. It is a new country, but it is a splendid country. It has perhaps been retarded somewhat in the past for lack of transportation facilities, and it is to-day suffering agony—may I say?—because the transportation rates are not what they ought to be. But notwithstanding all that, it must never be forgotten that our forefathers, especially in the eastern provinces, went into the woods, hewed down the trees, and raised their potatoes in the burnt lands, and their descendants forty or fifty years later were able to send their sons to college—pioneers from whom have sprung one of the most virile races not only on the North American continent but in the world—these men met and overcame every discouragement and difficulty, and remembering this, I believe that our friends should not be discouraged by the reverses of a year or two and lose faith in the prospects of the great Canadian West.

The thought has occurred to me that we may have in one of the present government departments some means by which the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Stewart) may be assisted in his immigration policy. This thought is not, perhaps, original with myself. I have had it in mind for some time, but I see that a gentleman who spoke some days ago at a dinner in this city expressed a similar view. In the past, as I understand it, the

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great difficulty in bringing immigrants into this country, especially to the Canadian West, has been the fact that they were simply thrown on the prairies; they were not told that certain land in Alberta was suitable only for grazing, that certain land in Saskatchewan was suitable only for a particular kind of farming, that certain land in Manitoba was suitable only for another kind of farming. In short, they were strangers in a strange land. I say that we have in a department of the government the means by which at least this difficulty may be overcome. We have in that department persons whom we should send to the old country as our agents—persons who are good farmers, and not merely able to talk glibly and smoothly with a view to inducing immigrants to come to our shores. I am referring particularly to the Soldier Settlement Board. That board, anybody to the contrary notwithstanding, has done and is doing a splendid work for Canada. Their work must continue for some years, and I do not think the government can do better than engage the services of members of the staff of the Soldier Settlement Board, especially of the field men, in connection with any policy of inducing immigrants to come to western Canada. My experience has been wholly in the East, where we have a large number of the field men of the Soldier Settlement Board, every one of them a practical farmer. These men know the soil of the various sections of the Maritime provinces as no other men know it. In most cases they are graduates of our best agricultural colleges; and I have no doubt that the same is true of the men who have been operating in the central and western provinces. These men we still have; might we not use their services? Send them to the United States and the old country—and by the old country I do not mean England, Scotland and Ireland alone; I mean Europe or any place where good immigrants can be got. Send them over there and let them explain the conditions of farming in this country as I am afraid our present agents there are unable to do. Then, when the immigrants come to our western country, field men of the Soldier Settlement Board can meet them and explain the different conditions in the various sections. If that is done we shall not have the trouble that we had from 1900 to 1910, when people who were brought here, hoping that in a few years they would become rich on the western prairies, were simply thrown into the wilderness of the West, in complete ignorance of the conditions existing there. The result was discontent, and if the same system is now followed the