

and on the verge of starvation because others in the ranks of labour have been so exacting about demanding wages, remuneration that is exorbitant, and conditions that no industrial system can bear. It seems to me that a little educational work might be of very great benefit, and I was glad to hear the suggestion made by the Premier of Ontario the other night in his address to the Social Service organization that they should spend a great deal of their time in educating democracy. He made this terse remark: "If democracy fails, it will be through ignorance."

Let me say a word in regard to immigration, a subject which has been mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. Recently, there came to me some figures that were startling. I would not say that they are correct; but this statement has been made as—from a very high authority—that for every settler that comes to Canada at the present time, fifteen have been leaving. What is wrong that we are not able to keep our population? The reason is simply that the people are dissatisfied; the conditions are so hard that they find they cannot continue. As regards the West, I do not think that our farmers can be justly blamed for being quitters. They have continued patiently during the past two or three years at a very heavy loss, but they have been hoping that something could be done to improve economic conditions so that they might be enabled at least to make a living. In this connection I might say a word with regard to the returned soldier—this is a matter that is closely related to the immigration question. The scheme launched by the late government to settle the returned soldiers on the land was, I believe, well-intentioned; but I am afraid that some very serious mistakes have been made. Not very long ago I had the privilege of examining some farms purchased by returned soldiers at about \$30 per acre. I found these farms to be worth, in reality, probably, between \$5 and \$10 per acre. They were simply immense sand banks. I am quite convinced, and I have no hesitation in stating the conviction, that the inspectors that passed these farms at \$30 per acre were either inefficient and incompetent or they were crooks. I can reach no other conclusion. These men have in almost every case been driven from the land. The last of them are leaving these farms at the present time, and in conversation some of them have given certain information. One of them says, in effect: "What worries me most is not the fact that I have lost about \$2,000 of my own money, nor that I have wasted four years of the best of my life, but that after I have left this land

I shall be hounded by the Soldier Settlement Board and be compelled by judgment to pay the loss upon the land". This man said to me that he was not a good judge of land, but that he had been advised that the farm would be satisfactory. He said: "I trusted the inspector whom the government sent out to safeguard my interests in this regard. But if anyone doubts, I can show him the land and he can see for himself that it is nothing but a vast sandbank on which the best farmer in Canada could not possibly hope to succeed". Now, I mention this largely for this reason: I understand that some suggestions have been made, originating, I believe, at Regina, to the effect that the same inspectors that served on the Soldier Settlement Board should be re-engaged in connection with the Canadian Colonization Association. It seems to me it would be wise for the government, if they contemplate anything of that kind, to be very careful and go over the work of these appraisers, because although in some cases their work has been eminently satisfactory, in other cases it has proved just as I have stated. I can give you a bright picture of this work. In a district some thirty or forty miles from Regina, known as Piapot, a locality well known, I think, to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Motherwell), fifty-four returned soldiers were settled, and I was pleased to find that of this number only one had failed. As a matter of fact there were two failures, but as one of these two never really tried to succeed there is really only one failure to be considered. The difference seems to lie in this fact: the land was virgin soil, it was not improved in any way; and if the gentleman whose name I heard mentioned really was the appraiser, I can say he is a man who has a very great knowledge, and is an excellent judge of land, and, whose high integrity cannot be questioned. And there were no personal owners who might try to bring any influence to bear upon him. I think that has a good deal to do with the success in these cases. No doubt some of the appraisers sent out by the government were honest, but others were either incompetent or were not honest, and their work should be carefully scanned by the government or by the Colonization Association. Numbers of returned soldiers have been placed in a position in which their hearts have been almost broken, having settled on farms which they are now compelled to leave almost penniless, in some cases with no hope of being able to escape from debt and being faced with the only alternative of leaving this country. And those who have been guilty of placing these men