

the country, chiefly from the mouth of the Minister of Immigration (Mr. Stewart), many of them emphasizing the labours of the administration to formulate a policy, one of them announcing that at last the task was complete and they had decided to increase the advertising, to increase the agencies, and to seek immigrants from other lands, and as well to stop the exodus of those already within our borders.

I was not able to detect anything in the way of a new idea in that formulation of alleged policy. But a review of the success of this administration on the subject of immigration is illuminating as illustrating its success with every other subject that it has turned its hand to since coming into power. I could detect a sense of humour coming back into the mind of the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. Putnam) when he asked himself the hypothetical question: What after all has this government done? If his mind should turn to the subject of immigration, he would see the real irony of the question. He spoke of the very great difficulties the government encountered when it came into power a year ago. Oh, what a pathetic situation this country was in! Our financial condition, he said, was so bad that it really constituted—and I waited for the word: finally it came—it really constituted a “problem.” He forgot the Speech from the Throne of last year. In that speech the government which had in their election speeches described our national condition as perilous, as bringing forebodings into the minds of “masters of finance,” in the words of the present Minister of Justice (Sir Lomer Gouin), as making even rich men quail with fear, as indeed making patriotic men dread the day when, because of our obligations to the Republic to the south, we would drift into annexation,—in the Speech from the Throne these same men had His Excellency say, that the condition of this country was the best of that of any country that had been engaged in the world war. And as the hon. member reviews the year, dwelling all the time on the vastness of the task of the government, the conclusion his philosophic mind finally arrives at is this:

How small, of all that human hearts endure,
The part that kings or laws can cause or cure.

How little more especially can those of that name and quality in the present administration do in the matter of immigration!

Immigration during the war of course fell off. Our efforts during that time were not

[Mr. Meighen.]

centred on that subject; they had other and bigger tasks to engage them. But nevertheless our immigration during the war was better than our immigration after the vast display of effort of the present administration. The average during the whole period of the war was about 90,000 immigrants per year. This year up to the end of December some 60,000 entered Canada, or a 25 per cent falling off from the year before. I have the correct figures before me. In the year 1920 we received 117,396 immigrants; in 1921, 148,477; in 1922, 89,999. That is the way immigration went on after the war closed. Our immigration from the beginning of last April to the end of the year is given me by the department at 60,247. The government affirm in the Speech from the Throne that the most desirable immigration is British and American. Well, British immigration has almost disappeared altogether. British immigration that a year ago was five to one is now less than two to one. As against European, British immigration absolutely is going down to the zero mark. That is the result of one year of operation.

But while immigration is stagnant, emigration appears to be active. The government somewhat boasts in the Speech from the Throne of the expansion of our exports. Our exports have gone up in part—there is no very great stimulus apparent, but there is a somewhat small increase. But there are exports and exports. With a crop transcending anything we have ever had before in the history of the Dominion, it is scarcely of much credit to the government that that crop has had to find an export market—it must go. We have, I should think, a 400,000 bushel wheat crop this year; our barley and our oat crop much exceeds that of any previous year in our history, and that accounts for the expansion of our exports. But there is something else that accounts for it as well. We are exporting settlers' effects at a very considerable rate. In 1920 the export of settlers' effects was valued at some \$7,762,000, but in the same year there were imported settlers' effects to the value of \$9,127,000. In a word, the balance was in our favour to the extent of \$1,364,631. The year before—1921—we had a balance in our favour in the matter of export and import of settlers' effects of \$1,161,000—\$6,808,000 worth came in and \$5,647,000 worth went out. But this year, after the exertion of the government, as promised in the Speech from the Throne of a year ago, we managed to have come in \$5,068,000 worth while there went out \$6,155,000