

jeopardize our trade with other nations. We need the nations of the world to market our products, but we must so arrange things as not to harm our basic industries, among which agriculture is the first.

Mr. Speaker, I shall warn the government to be on its guard against all ideas which emanate from the other side of the house, but especially these big immigration schemes of the leader of the opposition and his followers. His speeches, of which three quarters are on immigration and emigration, have alarmed public opinion and it would be dangerous to support their suggestions. Canadians are not opposed to immigration; however, they wish first to retain their people, and to be frank, they do not take kindly to the policy of the leader of the Conservative party who advocates the spending of their money, not to improve their condition, but to bring to our shores immigrants who will replace them on the land, at the mills, in commercial enterprises and even in the civil service.

Although their financial standing has improved, they have pressing needs which must be met. Here, they request railway branch lines to link settlements, industrial and mining development areas to the large centres; there, lower freight rates; in other parts, necessary public buildings. It is only fair that these requests should take precedence over those of the leader of the opposition and his immigrants. For instance, I know that we can improve the lot of the Ontario farmer, because the provincial government obliges him to pay the larger share of the cost of construction and upkeep of highways, and I would suggest to the members of my province, who are on the opposition side and have shed tears over the budget proposals, that they dry their tears and join in the efforts of the rural delegation which, three weeks ago, urged their friend the prime minister of our province, to make a more equitable distribution of taxes and thus relieve the farmers.

As to the federal sphere, I have no doubt that our government will continue to relieve the farmer of the burden of taxation which weighs heavily on him. The tariff readjustment is proceeding slowly if you wish, but with caution and safety, with all due deference to extremists, who in one corner of the house state that it is proceeding too quickly and goes too far, while in the other corner we hear that it is too long delayed.

In the near future when signing trade treaties, our government will think, as in the past, of the farmer, and it will provide new markets for his products. Moreover, it will help the farmer in settling his sons on fallow

lands, by offering them the same advantages which the British settlers have under the Empire Settlement Scheme.

Mr. Speaker, the farming population, which I have the honour to represent, expect much of the truly patriotic men who are at the helm of Dominion affairs, and especially, they hope to see the reform of that policy, which gives to English people greater advantages than our people have in the settlement of fallow lands. They are aware that the government has already amended the immigration act by restricting it to immigrants sound of body and mind.

They now request it to go one step further, and give the preference to Canadian settlers rather than to those from Great Britain.

Should this preference be impossible to grant, at least let us be given equal treatment. Those who have already made sacrifices for Canada have special rights that no one can ignore without danger for the future. There are susceptibilities which should not be provoked, and knowing that they are the masters of this vast country for which they have toiled and shed their blood, Canadians do not willingly submit to the regulation which gives to immigrants preference over them. Moreover, what immigrant with common sense will come to live and settle his children in a country where the latter will be discriminated against. If we wish to increase our population, we must grant the privileges of settlement to Canadians only, so that there may be advantages for the present and future citizens to remain in this country.

A policy of intensive settlement favouring Canadian citizens is, in my opinion, the practical way of stemming the desertion of the soil and the exodus to the United States, of entirely wiping out unemployment and, lastly, attracting that wave of European immigration in which the leader of the opposition places his hopes for the future of the country.

Canadian soil belongs to Canadians. Let us therefore set it aside for the Canadian farmer or labourer who wants to cultivate it. Let us place at his disposal and that of his heirs the vast natural resources that his ancestors jealously guarded for him. Then let us give him transportation facilities and advantageous markets. The spending of \$20,000,000 to help the settler and the Canadian farmer would draw more immigrants than \$40,000,000 spent in coaxing them.

After all human energy is Canada's greatest wealth, and the humblest Canadian is a far more precious jewel than all our combined natural resources which will place our coun-