

the expectation of a great influx of immigration from other countries to fill up the vacant spaces and utilize the equipment which we have provided at a great cost for a population much larger than that we now have. But I am afraid that the government itself is not very hopeful so far as the near future is concerned. There is no question that the cost of government in this country, federal, provincial, municipal and otherwise, has increased enormously during the past few years, and it is a grievous burden on the people. There is in connection with immigration a duplication, the aggregate result of which ought to show better results if we were getting anything like value for the money expended. I am not sure what policy the government has in mind. At the last session of parliament a committee of the House was appointed to consider the question of old age pensions, and I have almost come to the conclusion, in view of the fact that there is a reduction of \$300,000 in this item, that the government intends to adopt a system of old age pensions in Canada as an inducement to people to come here and in this way hold them here. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company last year, according to their financial statement, spent \$758,510 on colonization and immigration work. The Canadian National Railways spent \$770,454 for the same purpose. In fact, this other branch of government increased its expenditure by nearly \$400,000 over the previous year. Some of the provincial governments are also doing a great deal of work along this line. There must be something absolutely and radically wrong or better results would follow. The fault does not rest with the country, notwithstanding the criticism of the minister. I do not think there is anyone who will not stand up and stoutly maintain that Canada possesses natural resources unequalled, or at least unsurpassed, by any other country in the world.

Mr. ROBB: Hear, hear.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: I do not think the sun shines upon a country that offers greater natural inducements for the willing worker than does this Dominion. But with all our great natural advantages we are labouring under certain artificial handicaps that must be removed before we will have a satisfactory condition of affairs. The minister referred to the efforts put forth to induce immigrants to go on the land and to keep them there. Why all this anxiety about confining them to the land? It would be much better to have these people employed in our own cities than

to have them employed in the industrial centres in foreign countries manufacturing goods for our consumption and use. It is well known that the great exodus from our rural districts is chiefly into our towns and cities. And it is quite natural that the people should go where they find the best opportunities. You may talk until you are blind, but you cannot convince those who know better than you do that they are making a mistake. They know what they are doing. Our people are intelligent, and there is no use preaching the doctrine, "Oh, you are foolish, you will do much better on the land than you will in the urban centres." That doctrine has been preached so long that it is now threadbare. I repeat, there is something radically wrong, or conditions such as we now have would not prevail.

Reference has been made to emigration to Australia. Australia is in a different position to Canada. They are not living alongside the most energetic and progressive nation in the world, a nation that has adopted a fiscal policy which is bound to have a tremendous influence upon the course this Dominion is compelled to take. We cannot escape that influence if we wished to, and we might much better realize that now and deal with an imperative necessity as at any other time. In the main our fiscal policy will always be dictated by that of our great neighbours to the south of us. We know full well that many of the best of our people have crossed the line during the past few years, and are now residents of the United States. The greatest loss we have sustained since the Great war has been this exodus of native-born Canadians to the United States.

I admit that it is necessary to establish proper safeguards against the entry of an undesirable class of people, people who congregate in our big cities and who neither know how to work, nor intend to do honest labour. We have altogether too many of that class at present. But a reduction of \$300,000 in these estimates is rather significant in view of the fact that it is so seldom that we find a reduction of any consequence in any of the other estimates. Why have not the government applied the pruning knife to a lot of this deadwood that might well be cut out? For two at least of the items that were passed a few minutes ago the minister stated he did not believe there was any justification; yet they were passed.

Mr. ROBB: But my hon. friend will at least give me credit for having reduced the estimates of the Department of Finance by \$70,000?