

I know there are some gentlemen who believe that the best interests of Canada would be served by filling up this country with people regardless almost of where they come from. I have never held that opinion. The great Sir John A. Macdonald, who has long since passed away, never adopted that policy. His policy was that it is better to have a few good settlers than thousands of undesirables, and I believe that is the proper policy for us to pursue to-day. Honourable gentlemen, I presume it is the aspiration and hope of every member of this House that some day we shall have on the Northern part of this continent a great British-Canadian nation. That ought to be the aspiration and hope of every Canadian, and if that is right, then we must see to it that we lay deep, broad, and strong the foundations upon which to build that great nation. It can be done only by getting the right class of people into the country. While I commend the Government for its proposed immigration measure, I hope it will be along the line of protecting the interests of Canada by excluding alien enemies from this country for many years to come.

Another very important matter referred to in the Address is the proposed Bill for highway construction. This is perhaps one of the most important Bills which will come before the House. Good roads are absolutely necessary throughout Canada, more especially in the farming districts, and particularly in the three great prairie provinces—this largely on account of the difficulty in making roads in those provinces. It is difficult and expensive to build roads in the prairie provinces on account of the nature of the soil. The country being flat, drainage is a very expensive proposition. To drain a roadbed it is sometimes necessary to dig ditches fifteen or twenty miles to carry the water away. The provincial governments and the municipalities in the past have spent large amounts of money, in fact they have kept themselves poor, in trying to make decent highways for the farmers. I feel that this is a belated measure; this question ought to have been taken up by the Federal power many years ago. I remember that shortly after I first came to Parliament—in 1909 I think it was—I had the honour of bringing this matter before the Government of the day, urging them to provide a large amount of money to aid in the construction of roads in the western provinces. I was told at that time by the then leader of the Government, who has passed away, that it was not the policy of the Federal Government to deal with this matter; that, in fact, the Federal Govern-

ment had nothing to do with it, because it was a provincial matter. I believe that at that time he was absolutely right, but it could easily have been arranged, and the Federal Government should have arranged at that time, to step in and help the provinces by giving them money to build those roads.

I do not know what the present proposition is, but I hope that the Federal Government will provide large amounts of money for this purpose. It will take hundreds of millions of dollars, and no money will be better spent in Canada than that money if it is properly handled. At the same time I hope that while the Federal Government is providing this assistance to the Provinces it will always keep a string on the money grant so as always to have some say as to how the money shall be spent.

Another very important matter, perhaps one of the most important to the people as a whole, is the promised legislation for the creation of a Department of Public Health. No more important measure can come before Parliament than that of making provision for the health of the people of Canada. The greatest asset we have is our people, and the health of the people is of vital importance. I hope that the choosing of a head for this great department will receive serious consideration on the part of the Government. They can make this department either very useful or useless in the appointing of the head of the department. I have given a good deal of study to questions of sanitation, the disposal of sewage, etc., and it is my opinion that the most important question will be the scientific question of sanitation, and I trust that the Government will appoint a high-class sanitary engineer to head this very important department. After all, it is a matter of sanitation. In constituting a health board, as is done in our cities, it is not enough to place in charge a medical man, although he may be a very eminent doctor, if he lacks the knowledge of sanitation. I hope, as I have said, that there will be a first-class sanitary engineer appointed to that very important office.

I am not going to detain the House. I want to say just a word on the fact that the Government has taken the initiative in sending out its trade commission. The development of a foreign trade is a matter of vital importance to this country, and it has been dealt with very fully by my honourable friend from Simcoe (Hon. Mr. Bennett). I commend the Government for