

be levelled against the people of almost every province in Canada, that the highways are not creditable; that while the early settlers came here without any capital, except their personal strength, made tremendous sacrifices, they wrought wonderful works in the way of clearing lands and providing roads—works that simply astonish us when we consider how handicapped were the men who accomplished these. It makes us feel that we are not now doing the work at all. In some provinces the revenues are not adequate to the demand for better roads. It is therefore exceedingly satisfactory from the point of view of those who think everything should be done in this Dominion to foster agriculture and to make it truly what the speech claims it to be the basic industry of our country—to discover that not content with devoting the revenue of the country to greater works such as railways, canals and things of that kind, they are going to come down to the more humble mode of locomotion, they are going to provide highways, and these are absolutely essential in order that the people may take full advantage of the numerous railways with which the country is provided.

Another passage of the speech promises that the federal government is about to do more than it has hitherto done, and is about to co-operate as far as possible in the matter of developing and improving the methods of agriculture in our land. That is a work in which the Dominion government has been for a long time successfully engaged, and much has been done, but much remains to be done. I suppose that it is very hard for us to realize that the most difficult business in the world, almost, is the business of the farmer. It is exceedingly technical, exceedingly complicated, and subdivided into a great number of different branches and subjects, all of which require ability and application in order to come to a satisfactory knowledge of them. Scientific cultivation of the soil is a most difficult business to learn, and with all that has been done for the farmer in the past it is still insufficient to enable him to approach his work with proper technical knowledge and proper skill. Even should the government not

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see their way to increase the number of agricultural colleges, there are other directions in respect of which, particularly in a country with an abounding revenue—they might very well promote the development of agricultural pursuits. In the first place, and as the foundation of all improvement in agriculture—an improvement which requires capital which is frequently beyond the resource of the individual farmer—is the great fundamental improvement of drainage, and that improvement lies at the basis of what has been termed here our basic industry, agriculture. There is scarcely an acre of farm land in Canada which does not require to be drained, and there is not an acre which requires to be drained which cannot be drained to the enormous advantage of the owner and of the state; therefore, in respect of this matter alone it might be very well to follow the example set to us a long time ago by the British government in their Drainage Act, by which capital would be placed at the disposal of the farmer at a reasonable rate, to enable him to drain his land effectively. In other respects as well, capital might be placed at the disposal of the farmer. He can furnish adequate security as a rule, and like every other business man, he will find it impossible to carry on his business successfully without capital. Those who are intimate with agricultural pursuits know perfectly well that farmers thoroughly realize that farming is a business which cannot be carried on without capital. They realize that the proper place to invest their savings is in their land, their implements and their farm stock, and this country would render a great service if it placed at the disposal of the farmers the credit of the state so as to enable them, the proper security being given, to bring to their assistance capital, which is the vivifying influence without which no trade or business can prosper. There are many other matters in the speech which I will not grapple with. We are all exceedingly interested in seeing that something is to be done in the matter of grain inspection and to control the terminals at the Great Lakes, matters in respect of which there is great feeling in the west,