

North America we cannot be a recruiting ground for American industries, research laboratories, technical institutions, and all the higher agencies of civilization. I do not believe the people of this country would support a policy which they believed was inimical to agriculture. This is as true of the great body of manufacturers as of any other element of the population. During the last five years the Federal Parliament has appropriated nearly \$22,000,000 for agriculture. For 1918 the Provinces voted \$3,500,000. For 1919 the Provincial expenditures for agriculture were nearly \$4,000,000. The Provincial and Federal appropriations for agriculture last year totalled \$8,500,000. In placing soldiers on the land over \$76,000,000 have been expended. Our great expenditures for rail and water transportation have been primarily designed to increase land settlement, to give western settlers better railway connections, to reduce freight charges, and to give farmers cheaper access to local and foreign markets. In our appropriations for immigration the chief objects have been to increase rural population and the supply of farm labor. But there has been no protest from the towns and cities, from merchants or manufacturers, or from the industrial classes which have borne and will continue to bear at least a fair share of the burden. It is true that all classes benefit by increase of farming population, and possibly we have not always been wise in policy or provident in expenditure. But the fact remains that Canadian Governments have always been greatly concerned for the welfare of farmers, and that any and all proposals designed to assist agriculture have commanded, and I believe will continue to command, the practically unanimous support of the Legislatures and the Federal Parliament, subject to a single condition that the national interest shall be the supreme consideration; and it is as essential for

agriculture as for industry that that condition shall be the base and the test of all public policy.

## FREE TRADE DANGERS

It is true, as I have often argued, that we are situated as is no other country in the world. As between Asia and the West and as between the nations of Europe, movement of population from one country to another is obstructed by differences of language and of custom. There is no considerable movement of Americans or Canadians into Mexico or South America. But Canada and the United States have common traditions, common customs, a common language, and a common social and political outlook, and unless we develop industries and afford opportunity for men of different inclinations, ambitions and endowments, of individual genius and special aptitudes, they will cross the boundary where every opportunity they may desire is afforded, and the natural resources of Canada will lie undiscovered or undeveloped unless we are content to feed these resources to American factories and become a commercial adjunct of the powerful neighboring nation. An Irish private, sorely wounded, in hospital in France, pleaded to be sent back to Ireland where he believed he would recover. In the hope that his spirit would revive and that he would make a harder struggle for life, the nurse with the doctor's consent told the wounded hero while he had a moment of consciousness that he was home in Ireland. Nothing would do but his head must be lifted on the pillow so that he could look out through the window. As he gazed across the desolated, battle-scarred country, he whispered, "when in h———did we get Home Rule?" I think of Canada after a revolutionary reversal of fiscal policy and I wonder, but I do not venture to suggest just what language would describe the situation.