

been conducting their undertakings differently from that of any other aggressive body of business men, where public control has been negligible, or at the most, lax.

Gentlemen, it is a mistake for any man to think he has the only solution to any stated problem. In placing before you the views which I have expressed on the question of immigration and railways, I do so only in the nature of suggestions. It is hardly necessary to say that both problems are extremely complicated. Canada is a free country and the more freely our problems are discussed the more easily will they yield to some solution. That is the spirit in which I have approached them. Having resided many years on the plains of Southern Alberta, and regarding myself still as belonging to our great west, it is unnecessary to say, that I could not be a pessimist; that, like all here, I have unbounded confidence in our country and in our people. May I close by quoting a paragraph from a notable speech by a very notable man, made in this city, in September 1877—four years after Winnipeg was incorporated. I refer to the late Lord Dufferin, our then Governor-General. In these days of our trial, his words mark him as one possessed of a remarkably prophetic vision. Speaking of Canada, he said: "In a world apart, secluded from all extraneous influences, nestling at the feet of her majestic mother, Canada dreams her dreams, and forbodes her destiny—a dream of ever-blooming harvests, multiplying towns and villages, and expanding pastures; of constitutional self-government, and a confederated Empire; of page after page of honorable history added as her contribution to the annals of the Mother Country and to the glories of the British Race."

Gentlemen, we, with the rest of the world, had been getting callous to the finer things in life. The dollar was becoming the only lever that would stimulate us into any activity. Even the relaxation we took, in the way of some harmless game, had to have the piece of silver introduced, to make us play up. Then the war came, and the pendulum is now swinging backward. We are drawing nearer the realities of life. Our young men on the battlefields of Flanders are writing some of that history to which Lord Dufferin referred. They will never be the same again. Their Comrade in white with His Crown of Thorns is leaving His mark on them, and unconsciously the women of this country are likewise being marked. To us men it is also coming, even somewhat slowly, and we too will find ourselves engaged in the writing of that history.