

Canada have found contentment and free citizenship in this commonwealth. But the drain was heavy, and our sense of loss was profound. We needed population, and, most of all, we needed our own sons to settle our great vacant territories, to give energy to our industrial forces, and tone and character to the social and political fabric. Hence I violate no obligation of social courtesy, and utter no sentiment of narrow nativism when I declare that we have been greatly concerned to check this movement of Canadians towards the United States, and that we have profound gratitude and satisfaction in the splendid revival of domestic patriotism which has come upon Canada, and in the truer value which Canadians are now setting upon their own national inheritance. At last we are a light upon a hilltop and the nations see from afar. At last the movement of population is towards Canada. North and west the march of settlement proceeds, and hope and confidence and courage abound. We are taking rich treasures of lead and silver and gold out of the mountains of British Columbia. We are rearing new cities on the western plains and in the valleys of the Pacific. We are sending the railway over hills and through frowning passes, and across great stretches of virgin land before which the foot of civilisation has paused for centuries. We are filling these wide leagues of western prairie with a choice immigration from the Old World, and from some of the populous States of this Republic. A growing commerce is passing out of our seaports on the Atlantic and on the Pacific. An increasing volume of the products of the West is passing through our canals