

found sufficient. But as the time approached for closing the Fair, September and October, our traffic returns showed a very large increase over 1892. Now we have to compete with these heavy traffic receipts, and it is reasonable to expect that the comparison will be very unfavourable, and may lead to wrong inferences, unless the reasons are carefully borne in mind. I anticipated that the World's Fair would interfere with ordinary traffic, both to the seaside and pleasure resorts as to passengers and as to freight, by diverting the attention of people from commercial pursuits. This took place, but matters were made a great deal worse by the extraordinary financial conditions which surrounded commercial operations in the United States. A species of panic existed throughout the whole period. A very large proportion of the railroad property across the line became bankrupt, and conditions existed which we hope may never occur again. We may, I think, expect that although there will be no traffic corresponding with that which was created with the World's Fair, there will be a restoration of business in both passenger and freight of the ordinary descriptions. This would certainly mitigate the expected decrease in our weekly traffic returns, were the fiscal difficulties to which I have alluded removed and were business to resume normal conditions. At the present moment there is a demand all round for cheap transportation, and it is a fact that railroads are called upon to carry traffic at rates which are positively near cost price, and leave little margin of profit for the company. It is a struggle for existence all round, but doubtless there will be a survival of the fittest, and I hope the Grand Trunk is one of the fittest."

And one more quotation must close :

"Touching the immigration of the year, it appears to me that the conditions existing both in the United States and Canada are at the present time against the introduction of new labour. There are thousands, and probably hundreds of thousands, of men on the continent with nothing to do. Then again the price of wheat and other cereal products at the present time is so low, and the demand is so comparatively small, that an increase in the area of production does not appear to be necessary. There must be too much cereal product in the world already, judging from prices, which, I believe,