

sympathy for her greater or more sincere than in Canada.

His Excellency has been pleased to congratulate the country on the admission of the new provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta as constituent members of the confederation, and it will add a chapter to the history of his distinguished family that His Excellency was present and took a part in the inauguration thereof. This was without doubt the greatest event of the past year, and its successful accomplishment is a source of great pride to the whole Canadian people.

The growth of the western provinces during recent years is phenomenal, and certainly most gratifying. Fifteen years ago we could not have believed it possible. We all remember the depressed and unsatisfactory condition these provinces were then in, and we cannot but contrast it with the buoyant and hopeful feeling that is met everywhere in the country to-day.

For many years before and during that period the best of our young people were turning their backs upon us and making homes for themselves across the border, but to-day the tide has turned, and with open arms we welcome our neighbours to the south, who are crossing the line by the thousand and settling in the new provinces.

The homestead entries in 1895 in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories were only 2,394 while in 1905 they were 30,819.

The people of the east can join with the west in congratulations and rejoicing for a bountiful harvest. Not only have our farmers had more than an average crop, but our fishermen never received such prices, and while the catch was not large the profits were above the average.

Our collieries were run to the full capacity, and the output largely increased.

And in many branches our manufacturers could not supply the increased demand. So that we can readily accept the statement that the current year, for both exports and imports, gives promise of being the largest on record.

It is most pleasing to note the flow of immigrants seeking homes continues; it is certainly gratifying that the largest increase is from the British Isles. I find upon looking at the statistical returns for the year ending

Hon. Mr. MCGREGOR.

1903— G. B. U.S.
of declared settlers.... 128,364 32 p.c. 38 p.c.

1904—
of declared settlers.... 130,331 39 p.c. 35 p.c.

1905—
of declared settlers.... 146,266 45 p.c. 30 p.c.

Loyalty and sentiment require us to have a preference, yet, as a matter of fact, the American settler is a great boon to the country. They know the conditions of the country so much better than the British people do. The American farmer is an object lesson from which the Englishman gets a practical education immediately on arrival, and it is an acknowledged axiom that observation is cheaper than experience.

I may be permitted to remark that it is extremely gratifying to the government that their policy in regard to the new provinces has been so emphatically endorsed by the people of the west in the recent local elections. When the Autonomy Bills were before parliament, the people of this country were led to believe that there was danger of revolution in the new provinces. The press of Ontario, and particularly the Toronto newspapers, condemned the educational clauses so vigorously that I was almost convinced that there was a dangerous excitement in the west. During the recess in May, I went up to the Northwest to learn for myself how far the reports were true. I travelled a considerable portion of the new province of Saskatchewan, and found scarcely a man who would give time to talk about the Autonomy Bill or the school question. Every man was so hopeful of the country that he would talk of nothing but the general advancement and progress everywhere in that region. I visited one of the separate schools. Brought up as I had been, I had a feeling almost of repulsion for such schools, but I had to acknowledge, after that visit, that my opinion was very much changed. I was not critical enough to know much about the teaching myself, but I was accompanied with one who, in his younger years had been an experienced teacher, and he said that he was very much pleased with the whole teaching in the separate schools of that country. We remained for the half hour where religious instruction is given and heard the priest giving the children their religious training. The subject that day was baptism, and I can conscientiously say