

Mr. MACLEAN. That is not so.

Mr. BOURASSA. Yes. The true basis of a country is its farming population.

Mr. MACLEAN. That is not so.

Mr. FRASER. You are differing from your leader.

Mr. BOURASSA. Manufacturing industries do immense good in the country, but I say that the solid basis of a country is the prosperity of the farming community.

Mr. MACLEAN. And the industries.

Mr. BOURASSA. I say that the industries should be developed and should be supplied by the farmers, and that both should help each other.

Mr. MACLEAN. Hear, hear.

Mr. BOURASSA. But to develop the industries to such a point as to attract the country people to the cities without at the same time trying to promote settlement in the country is, in my opinion, bad policy. I am nearly as much of a protectionist as the hon. gentleman is; I have always admitted it in this House. I am not a protectionist on principle. I am a protectionist because I consider protection our only safeguard against the trade invasions of the United States. But I say that along with a policy that will prevent American industries destroying Canadian industries, we should have a policy for giving a strong impetus to farming and settlement.

Again, I must pay a compliment to the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher). I am not always in the habit of paying compliments to ministers, though whenever I can do so, I do it with pleasure. I will also make a suggestion to the hon. gentleman. He and his officials have done a great deal to develop the farming industries of this country, especially in the market which is our most natural market—the British market—the most natural, that is, while we are deprived of the American market. I would ask the hon. gentleman if it would not be possible to adopt some scheme whereby greater uniformity of dairy products might be attained. If there is one impediment to our trade in cheese and butter, especially in butter, it is the fact that there is not sufficient control over its manufacture. One reason for this is the too great number of small factories. It has been suggested in the province of Quebec that the provincial legislature should do something in this matter; but as that would be an interference with the constitution, which refers to the federal parliament the control of trade, I would ask the hon. Minister of Agriculture, who has already done something for the establishment of cold chambers in the factories, if something could not also be done to discourage the building of small factories, which cannot make good products, but which try to compete with the best factories, and tend to spoil our markets.

Mr. BOURASSA.

With regard to the settlement of the country, I do not think it is just that the whole burden of colonization should rest upon the provincial government, I speak of those of the older provinces. In the western provinces the federal government, having control of the lands, fulfils the duty which in the older provinces devolves upon the provincial governments. We sometimes hear complaints of the heavy debt of the province of Quebec; but that debt is in a great measure due to the fact that the provincial government, though it has sometimes made mistakes, like other governments, has striven to keep the people of the province in the province. The result is not enormous, yet the province of Quebec is the only province in the Dominion which shows an increase in the rural population. In the other provinces the increase of population is confined to the cities. What is the reason for this difference? It is because the province of Quebec has spent money generously for the building of bridges, colonization roads and railroads, in order to open up the virgin parts of the province. I would like to see the federal government take a hand in this work. The provinces are not rich, their revenues are limited, and whenever there is an increase of population in any province, it is an increase of consumers, who add to the revenues of the federal government, but do not add anything to the revenues of the provincial government. On the contrary, they are a cause of more expenditure on the part of the province, on colonization roads, bridges and other improvements. Therefore, wherever there is a possibility of the federal government assisting in development and colonization work, it should be done.

Another paragraph of the speech upon which I want to say a word is that referring to the projected line of steamships to South Africa. I may say frankly that I am opposed to it—not on grounds of sentiment, but because I think there are many other countries with which Canada could develop a better trade. Very little permanent trade can be expected in South Africa. The mines will no doubt be reopened, and will no doubt flourish, because the tyrannical government of Mr. Kruger having been done away with, the mine-owners will be in a position to introduce their slavery system, which they had under British rule at Kimberley. But that trade, after all, is only a matter of a few years. The most hopeful expectations held out by expert engineers give to the mines of South Africa a probable existence of forty or fifty years, or perhaps seventy-five years at the utmost. Then, with the lines of communication already established with Great Britain, Germany, France and the United States, it is not likely that Canada can enter into a successful competition with these countries. Moreover, farming in South Africa has been destroyed, at any