

trade balance is equal or perhaps a little more. If this clause of a year ago were sought to be reproduced to-day, and there was any fidelity to truth displayed, it would read as follows: "Through the general economic situation still reflects the consequence of the World War, the records of production, trade, transportation, employment and public finance have been uniformly increasing by worse throughout the Dominion. The state of general employment has been distinctly worse. The volume of business has steadily decreased"—as I shall show a little later. "Especially has the country reason to feel mortified at the expansion of the public expenditure and the notable decline of the public revenue."

The reason is apparent why the government did not follow the phraseology of last year. Now I want to make some comment on the next paragraph in the Speech of last year:

I am persuaded that a reduction in taxation, and in production and transportation costs, such as will encourage the investment of capital in industrial enterprise and attract settlers in large numbers to our Dominion are all that are necessary to effect an economic development hitherto unparalleled.

This has been supplemented by a speech of the Minister of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment (Mr. Beland), who true to the mottoes of his party and his colleagues announced even last night that Canada was "on the eve of a great wave of prosperity, the greatest in the last fifty years." I wonder what day there has been in the three years that have gone that we have not been told about that "eve" on the edge of which we are continually standing. Has anybody witnessed an eve that lasted quite so long? How is it the dawn never comes? How is it that none of these things result that the government predicts session after session? There was going to be a reduction in production and transportation costs following reductions in the tariff, and as a consequence there was going to be a flow of capital into investment in industrial enterprise, and settlers were to be attracted to this country in large numbers. The records of the Immigration department show that instead of attracting settlers in large numbers, the numbers are far smaller, and they are getting smaller continuously. In December last, only some 2,000 came to this Dominion. We have heard a very great deal lately about "returned Canadians." I do not know how the records are kept, but I do say that the numbers vary materially from those given out by the United States. In the reports of the United States the number of Canadians returning per year is not so great as the number this government says

came back during a month—namely about 4,000.

But here is something very interesting indeed: If the minister will look at the returns of his own department he will find that the total number of Americans who came to Canada—American citizens, aliens and all the rest outside of Canadians—was, in the month of December, 741. My figures are tolerably close. But he says some 3,000 returned Canadians came in. Therefore, we are asked to believe that of all immigrants coming from that great republic, extending, as it does, east and west for a distance of nearly four thousand miles, four out of every five are returning Canadians! We do not see many of them here, and it would be very remarkable indeed if such a proportion as that could prevail. But let us assume that it does; what is the consequence? The emigration from Canada to the United States in 1923 was 181,973; in 1922, 62,289; and in 1921, 52,929. For the eleven months of 1924,—the figures are the latest I can get,—the recorded emigration to the United States alone is 147,330.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: From what source are those figures taken?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I sent to the Immigration Department of the United States direct and got them; they are quoted everywhere and accepted. But those figures only include the number who report themselves as going to the United States to remain; not those who report themselves as going there to visit, nor to others who get through by one surreptitious method or another; and the United States Minister of Labour reports that 850,000 have so crossed, not our borders merely, but all borders, in two years alone. In this connection I do not quote from any source the government can attack. The Trades and Labour Council of Montreal in their report, which I read to the Minister of Labour, declare that in these three years 300,000 of our people crossed over illegally and 400,000 legally. That body gives 700,000 as the number entering legally and illegally, and it bases its estimate on the report of the United States Minister of Labour. Mr. Grant MacNeil, Secretary of the Great War Veterans' Association, who has been appointed to a responsible position by this government and against whom I do not think they will comment, in the course of an article expresses the belief that a most conservative estimate of those who go, besides those who are counted, would place it at fifty per cent of the number who legally leave the Dominion. This is the lowest estimate I have seen anywhere. Now, let us keep within it and we