

field. As I have said, Mr. Speaker, I make no apology for bringing this matter into this House, because it was a Dominion issue which was fought out in that campaign; and, as the late election was held by virtue of the legislation of this House of last session, it might be in order for me to report respectfully to you that the two infant governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan have commenced their duties under the most happy auspices. In Alberta we have a cabinet which leaves little to be desired, one that is both capable and strong. Indeed, our only objection to it is that it is too strong, because the opposition is composed of only two members, the leader and the whip. In the province of Saskatchewan we have a government which, in proportion to the size of the House, is more strongly entrenched in power than the present government of the Dominion; and that government is presided over by a man who I believe has the affection of almost all the members of this House. Whether he has the affection of all or not, I am sure that he has the admiration and respect of every member of this House, and I am happy to report that he and his cabinet, one of whom was also an estimable member of this House, are addressing themselves to their duties with that same industry and efficiency which they manifested in the performance of their duties as members of this House. After all is said and done, after the elections in Alberta and Saskatchewan, which, as I have said, resulted in the return of forty Liberals to ten opponents, and after the by-elections which went by acclamation, I believe I am free to say to-day—and I believe that many of those who do not see eye to eye with me in political matters will bear me out—that this school question which was used in the Northwest Territories as a tool for purposes of the most base and contemptible kind, has been sunk into the limbo of forgotten things.

His Excellency also makes reference to the prosperity of the country and to the immigration which has taken place. I am happy to say that the immigration which promises to flow into our country in the present year is likely to be larger than any we have yet seen. There are many coming to us from Continental Europe, and this is an immigration which particularly impresses itself upon our eastern provinces, as they pass through them from our Atlantic ports. But there is another large inflow from which I do not believe hon. members from the east fully appreciate. In the town in which I have the advantage to reside, the good city of Moosejaw, we have now a twice-a-day train service from the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, and every day two trains are crowded with agriculturists of the very best type from the adjoining republic coming to settle on our western prairies. This large and valuable element is perhaps not so much appre-

ciated by hon. members of this House and its importance not so fully recognized as it deserves to be, because these people do not pass through our eastern cities as do the immigrants from the European continent; but it is one whose value in the building up of our country we cannot too much appreciate. Here let me say a word with regard to the Doukhobors and Galicians against whom we have had cast so many slurs in past years. I desire here to give my testimony to the fact that these Doukhobors and Galicians are men who are wringing out of our Northwest Territories the money that goes east and helps to build up eastern manufacturing industries and enables eastern capitalists to invest in automobiles and other luxuries which are the perquisites of wealth. Let those who are so ready to criticize and cavil at my fellow citizens, the Doukhobors and Galicians, come out to the Northwest and they will there see for themselves what honest industrious citizens these immigrants make—citizens who would not be a discredit to any country.

Sir, the Dominion of Canada has nothing to-day to complain of. Our west is enjoying unprecedented prosperity, and the outflow of that prosperity is shown in the many prosperous factories which are doing business in the east. Our western crop last year of wheat amounted almost to one hundred million bushels, and that crop we had great difficulty in moving to the sea-board. Our farmers would come almost at daybreak to the grain elevators and wait until daybreak the next day and even then could not always succeed in getting their wheat unloaded. Yet we find faint hearted people who say that we do not need another transcontinental railway line. Sir, that line cannot be built one day too soon. In my humble opinion it should have been constructed five years ago. Until that line is in operation, there will be no chance of relieving the great congestion in traffic under which we are suffering. The west, Mr. Speaker, is to-day only on the threshold of its greatness. We have as yet only one transcontinental line completed and the country served by that line is as yet but sparsely settled. In a few years we will have three through lines; and the development which the country will then have reached very few people at present really can realize. Let the men of the east go on building more manufacturing establishments because we shall need all the products they can supply. The capitalists and manufacturers of the east are, as a rule, unable to-day to realize the great possibilities of the west. You must live in that country, Sir, before you can begin to realize the great demand which is bound to come from the settlers on our vast prairies for everything the industrial centres of the eastern provinces can supply. I am happy