

30 last, compared with a similar period of the previous year:

	6 mos. to Sept. 30, 1909.	6 mos. to Sept. 30, 1909. In- crease.
Ocean ports.. . . .	64,447
From United States..	56,486
Total....	120,933	100,471 20 p. c.
Estimate for the whole year	175,000.	

Now, Sir, while we in this country are always willing to open our doors to the best immigration that comes to us from Europe—from England, from Ireland, from Scotland and from the other countries who have contributed to our population for many years, there is a peculiar interest involved in the immigration which we receive from the United States. That is an immigration which is not forced upon us by reason of undesirable or unhappy social conditions at home or by reason of any inability on the part of these people to find profitable employment in their own country. They come to us voluntarily because they believe that in the great Canadian northwest there is a future which far exceeds the prospects that lie before them anywhere else in the world. I would ask our friends from the west to treat well these immigrants from the United States. Their coming here is a repayment to some extent of the debt which the United States owed to Canada for many years by reason of the immigration they received from Canada under less happy conditions than those which exist at the present time. This is to us a notable and glorious fact. Instead of the tide of migration setting from Canada, and the maritime provinces to the United States as it was heretofore, to-day the tide of migration is from the United States to Canada. In the United States Canadians found comfortable, prosperous homes; they found the doors of opportunity in every walk of life open to them. There was no position in the social, intellectual and industrial life of that great country to which a Canadian was not welcome or to which he might not aspire. I trust that the same will hold good with regard to the immigrants coming into this country from the United States. They are worthy of the warm welcome which Canadians will always give them, and let us hope that while immigration comes to us from the United States it will always be of the quality and class that characterized the immigration from that country into Canada during the last twelve months.

I do not propose to make reference to the question of finance and trade; these were dealt with by my hon. friend from Berthier. But there is one matter mentioned in His Excellency's speech which has a great fascination for me—the sub-

ject of railways. I am pleased that the day has come when the government can afford to undertake the projection of a new railway into the great west. I observe that surveys and plans have been completed for the Hudson Bay railway, and, in the ordinary course of things, I would expect that the policy that the government enunciated some time ago in that regard would be carried out and that the construction of a railway to Hudson bay will be one of the undertakings of the not far distant future. But while we rejoice that the people in the west are receiving what was coming to them and what belongs to them in the matter of railways, I am glad that the government have not overlooked the position of affairs in the maritime provinces. It was my privilege last session to support the resolution of my hon. friend from Westmorland (Hon. H. R. Emmer-son) with respect to the absorption of certain branch railways by this government. I had scarcely hoped that the efforts of my hon. friend, who has conducted a vigorous and persistent campaign all along the line on that subject, would have borne fruit so early. The suggestion of his Excellency that the government would take power to lease certain branch railways is a fulfilment of the dearest and best expectations of my hon. friend from Westmorland and myself. I do not purpose going, this afternoon, into the question of the Intercolonial or setting forth the reasons why the people of the maritime provinces may reasonably look forward to a degree of railway development greater than they have heretofore enjoyed. There is a great field for the exercise of the benevolent policy on the part of the government outlined in that paragraph of his Excellency's speech. I trust that the government will carry out this policy vigorously; and while I cannot hope that they will enter into the purchase or leasing of all the railways that it is desirable the Intercolonial should control in the near future, I would hope they will make an early start and that one or two branches connecting with the Intercolonial may be acquired at an early day.

One other question referred to in the speech from the Throne appears to me as having great importance, the question of enhanced prices of certain manufactured goods. I notice that his Excellency has referred to that, and intimates that the government intend to propose further legislation to prevent the enhancement of prices of goods that may be the subject of combines. I must confess to a fear that there is an activity abroad in the combining of industrial enterprises that bodes no good to the consumer in this country. We have from time to time been informed through the newspapers that large and