

privilege, the honour, the luck, and perhaps in some instances the discomfort, of sitting in another place and developing facility in debate. Partly on account of my youth and partly on account of my lack of ability and of experience, I feel that I am here rather to get than to give information. But to-night I humbly venture to make a few remarks.

Most of the important problems facing this country have been thoroughly discussed. Much has been said about Imperial trade, and the necessity of finding some means to improve it. Let us hope that an effective means will result from the next Imperial Economic Conference, to be held in Ottawa. Reference was made also to the question of international disarmament, and I am sure we all trust that the present conference at Geneva will make real progress towards a settlement of this grave question.

The honourable gentleman from De Lanaudière (Hon. Mr. Casgrain) alluded to our railway problem, which is a vital one to-day, and mentioned the fact that about twenty-four hours ago, in another place, the right honourable the Prime Minister laid the blame for the existing mess at the door of the party to which he does not belong. I agree with the views expressed by the honourable senator on this matter, and I think there is considerable exaggeration in the accusation against the party now out of power. I wish to add a thought that has occurred to me. We have in Canada now three transcontinental railways, which have been finding it very difficult to earn enough to meet expenses, yet in an attempt to relieve the unemployment situation there is now being built a fourth transcontinental highway, which must inevitably result in increasing the competition that the railways already face. We all know that their severest competition to-day comes from motor trucks, and to the extent that the new highway facilitates truck traffic it will make successful railway operations more difficult.

The financial situation of our country has been fully dealt with by honourable members who are more able than I to handle huge figures. I believe that whenever an effort is made to curtail public expense there should be a simultaneous attempt to lower proportionately the cost of living. My honourable friend from Montarville (Hon. Mr. Beaubien) spoke in a very interesting way about the deep waterways. As I have always been more or less fearful of swimming in deep water, I will not tackle that subject, although I wish to say that we should be very careful in all our dealings with the republic to the south. As a reminder of how we have fared in the

past we need only glance at the map of Canada and notice the huge indentations which the States of Vermont and Maine make in the international boundary line. If that reminder be not sufficient, we can look at the Alaskan Panhandle. In spite of the ability with which Canada's claims to that territory were asserted by the veteran senator from North York (Hon. Sir Allen Aylesworth), the representatives of the Mother Country gave their decision in favour of the United States.

My main purpose in rising this evening was to refer to what I consider to be one of our most serious problems, and one that demands an early solution, namely unemployment. I think it is not only distressing but ridiculous to undertake huge public works for the sake of giving employment to a limited number of men in certain localities, while elsewhere an equal number of persons are dismissed from their positions. In my opinion the remedy on which we can with most reason pin our hopes is a systematically organized movement back to the land. By that I mean two things: first, some means of enabling the unemployed in our cities to move from the cold and dry pavements, where carrots and turnips cannot be grown, to the soil that gave a living to their ancestors; and secondly, the instituting of a scheme of repatriation whereby many of our fellow countrymen who have emigrated to the United States would be induced to return to Canada. I was pleased to note a few days ago that, according to a report presented in the Quebec Legislature, over 800 families had returned from the United States to this country in the course of the last twelve months, as a result of the invitation and co-operation of a far-seeing Government that even went so far as to give financial assistance to people who wished to return to the land of their forefathers.

One of the leading financial authorities in the City of Montreal, Mr. Beaudry Leman, General Manager of the Banque Canadienne Nationale, said a little while ago that in order to get relief from some of our most pressing burdens we shall have to increase our population. The more people we have here, the more traffic there will be for our railroads; and the larger the number of our consumers, the less likely are we to have over-production. The more taxpayers we have, the greater will be the receipts of the Canadian treasury, while the proportionate share of our individual taxes will be lowered. As our population grows the northern part of our country will be developed. We should be grateful to Providence that we do not have