

in the year, and not four weeks, as has been quoted. I shall deal with this in a few moments.

In regard to what has been said of western Canada, we will not play second fiddle to any man in regard to our eulogy of the Canadian West. We believe that the land is all right; we believe it is one of the finest countries in the world; we believe it is one of the most fertile soils that can be found; we believe that we can grow the finest wheat in the world. But in spite of having the finest soil in the world, in spite of it being one of the finest countries in the world, in spite of our growing the finest wheat in the world, we are not in a prosperous condition and men are leaving the country in large numbers. What we say is that there must be something seriously wrong when in a country that has been endowed with the finest possibilities, and where production has been granted to us by Providence above, and through the hard work of the individual, circumstances are such that a man almost fails to subsist. It is not a matter of a year or so: it is a matter of a number of years. I have heard the statement made outside by a member of this House that possibly it is the failures who are leaving the country, and if so, we are better off without them. So far as my district is concerned, if that were true, you would have to say that the men who have spent their lives farming, men who know all about the conditions, are all failures. That is impossible. They have farmed in the East, and they have farmed in the West, but owing to the economic conditions under which they have to farm they find it impossible to keep home and body and soul together, and it is for that reason we raise our voice; not that we are pessimistic, but because we feel if we do not raise our voice and warn these eastern men and present the real facts so that you may understand and sympathize with us and help us in every conceivable way, the confederation that was brought about in this great Dominion for the advancement of the North American continent will one day go on the rocks, and great will be the fall of it. That is how it seems to us at the present time.

The hon. member for Lunenburg said that no man had the right to get up in this House and tell a tale of woe or complain of conditions unless he had some remedy to suggest. He said that the hon. member for Springfield (Mr. Hoey) and many other members who have spoken had not offered any solution of the problems they presented.

We believe that we have tried to solve the problem; we believe we are trying to solve it day by day, and we are showing you the means whereby it could be solved if you would listen to us. But that seems impossible, because we are speaking to a large extent to deaf ears. The hon. member for Springfield has clearly shown, so far as we are concerned, how prosperity and peace and harmony and unity can once more be brought to this Dominion. I may speak of that in a few moments.

The immigration policy of this country has been dealt with to a large extent, and I want to say this: Travelling on the train one day I met a man who said, "I have watched the proceedings down in parliament a great deal, and it does seem to me that the Dominion immigration agents are something like this. In a certain insane asylum, if they want to test a man's sanity, they have a great trough filled with water and then, with the tap still running, they give the man a bucket and tell him to empty the trough. If he starts bailing out the trough before turning off the tap, they say he is fit for the insane asylum and he is detained. But if he first of all turns off the tap, and then gets his bucket and bails out the trough, they say he is fit to enter into the commercial life of the land. Now if we could reverse that process and apply it to the immigration policy it might be of practical utility. In 1911 we had 7,206,643 people. The natural increase over deaths—in spite of the losses of the war, the losses caused by the epidemic of influenza, and the great mortality which took place during that period—was approximately 1,500,000. In the same time we received 2,000,000 immigrants from different parts of the world, making a total of 10,706,643. So that we actually lost two million people, just as many as came in. In other words we are not making any progress. What is the use of men trying to raise families in this country, what is the use of our trying to keep pace with the natural development of the country when, despite all the people that are coming into the country we are getting no further ahead? There must be some reason for it, there is a leak somewhere. I believe it is up to the Dominion authorities to stop that leak and to so remedy the conditions that people in Canada will be rendered happy and contented. Either they should do that, or else they should give way to others who will take their place and solve the problem.

There are some things I want to say in regard to the farmer. I happened to attend a sale the very morning I left my home town