

ing from a small beginning to great development under conditions which did not exist at any previous period of the world's history. We have lived in Canada and pursued our activities nearly one hundred years without fear of invasion and without the foot of any party hostile to the peace and welfare of our country touching our soil. In three years we will have completed 100 years of peace. We owe that fact to the great empire of which we are proud to form a very important part. Other countries have had to win their way to civilization and wealth at periods during which at times all the accumulations of industry were wiped out. That has not been the case with us. We have held our wealth secure, and have been able to devote all our attention to developing our industries and creating and increasing the wealth of our country.

One matter mentioned in the speech from the Throne is not quite so satisfactory as we would like. Reference is made to the census which has been taken in the course of this year. I presume we all feel more or less disappointed in the result of the census. We have been accustomed to flatter ourselves for a long time with the idea that the exodus from Canada had ceased, and we had indulged in the hope that we were approaching a much higher population than has been revealed to us by the census. When I looked over the figures carefully I discovered that we had made an increase in the ten years of 1,786,000 souls; but I discovered on a little further consideration that our natural increase in that period of ten years, figured upon the basis of natural increase, which is 12.70 for the whole of our country, should have given us an increase of 722,000 souls. Immigration gave us 1,715,326 souls, and the same rate of natural increase applied to the immigrants that we have applied to the native population in the country, would give 113,000 more, so that there should have been a total increase, including immigration and excess of births of 2,551,000. Instead of that, an increase of 1,786,000 is reported, and, consequently, it is evident that 774,000 persons have failed to find their place upon the census of 1911. It is evident, under these circumstances,

that there is still a considerable movement of people from Canada to the United States. The exodus is not at an end. It has been checked to a certain extent, possibly, but it is still going on and we regret very much that we are still doing so much to add to the material strength and the population of the adjoining country. For that I do not think any administration can be blamed. I believe that we are pursuing the right course in developing our industries in order to keep our people at home, because the movement of population can be discovered in our country everywhere, not in one particular part but everywhere. It seems to me there is a tendency to drift towards the towns from the country—a tendency to abandon agricultural life for industrial life. Therefore, what is required is not to check the growth of the industrialism of this country, not to do anything at all to interfere with the attraction of people towards industrial pursuits, but the government should endeavour as far as possible to overcome the tendency of our population to leave the country and go in to the towns by making the country life more attractive. If that could be done it would be a great advantage. On the other hand, if there exists an overpowering desire on the part of the people to abandon agricultural for industrial pursuits, then it is evident that we must make greater efforts to attract to this country farm labourers or farmers, those who shall be content to take possession of the farms, which many people do not seem to prize so highly as perhaps they should. In that connection it is gratifying to find that the government of to-day, while not making a great many professions as to what it is going to do at this time, has still shown that the agricultural interests are about to receive particular attention at its hands. The first great measure which is promised in the speech, which must result in the development of agriculture and have a tendency to keep people on the farms, is the promise of assistance by the federal government in the way of highway construction. That is absolutely essential in order to make life on the farm comfortable and profitable. It is, to a certain extent, I believe, one of the reproaches which is to