

*Vancouver Harbour*

Mr. WARNER: I am glad to have an opportunity to support this resolution. It is a pleasure, to western members at least, to see so much support throughout this House for this proposition. I would that all questions could be considered on their merits, and it seems to me that the considerations which have been put forward by previous speakers as regards this proposition of improving the harbour facilities at Vancouver in order to take care of the western grain by way of the Pacific, have been founded on the merits of the question. We are glad to have this support.

I live at Edmonton, which is, one might say, on the western edge of the great grain producing district, and we are close to the Pacific coast as compared with even the lake ports. We have held for years that it was rather an injustice that we should not be permitted to ship our grain west when we felt that that was our natural route to the world market and our natural outlet. As has been said this afternoon, that route has the advantage of being an all-year-round route. Any time that you want to send grain that way, you can do so. I also live on the line of the National railways, and I have no hesitation in saying that I am partial to having grain travel over the National railways. I believe, too, as a previous speaker has said, that an opportunity is given to ship grain more cheaply on those National roads on account of better grades. Why not patronize the National roads? We have them; we have to make the best of them. Moreover, if any part of Canada will do something towards making those National roads a success, it will be the undeveloped part of Canada in the West which is lying there ready for the hand of man to make productive.

I do not know that I should, at this moment, introduce more than this one idea; but I want to tell the committee, as I told hon. members last year, that in Edmonton we live half way between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. If the Hudson Bay route is opened up at some time or another—I do not know when that time will come—we are about 800 miles from tide-water in Hudson bay, and we are from 700 to 800 miles from the Pacific. We hope that as this route develops there will be established at Edmonton storage elevators and all the facilities for handling, cleaning, drying, keeping and taking care of grain that may be shipped either way. I do not see that that should interfere with present development at Vancouver. The other pro-

[Mr. Robb.]

position I have referred to is practically untouched just now. Now, all we ask is that the government should have an eye to the future in order that western Canada may get its share of the development that must be carried out if the whole dominion is to become a really great country. We believe that we have a great country to-day, but our opportunities are so vast when compared with what has already been achieved that we cannot help feeling that we are only beginning to develop Canada. We want more wheat growers in the West, and we must provide for them, and enable them to put their products on the market.

One hon. member has observed that nothing has been said about the other products besides wheat. But if hon. members could understand the conditions in the West they would appreciate the other resources we have and perhaps they might view our future with more optimism. But people living in that part of the Dominion have some reason to hesitate about endorsing an immigration policy until they can be assured that intending immigrants will have a better opportunity than they themselves at present enjoy. Personally I do not share that view to any great extent, but I do feel that the work of taking care of the crops which future immigrants will raise in that part of the country is just as important in the interest of Canada as is the question of getting immigrants into the country. We must provide for that work or we shall not be able to hold the people when they do come. But I believe that all this can be done, and I am pleased this afternoon to note the broad view that has been taken by those hon. members who have spoken on this question. I do not think it is too much to hope that the representatives in parliament of the Canadian people may soon learn to appreciate the great value, and the crying necessity, of developing the western part of the country. That development is essential if a market is to be found for the products of the factories of eastern Canada. If the people in the West had been getting better markets and better prices there would have been a better sale for the manufactured goods of the country to-day. I do not like to recount the bad conditions that prevail out there to-day, but I must say that the reason why the manufacturers of the East are not selling their shoes and clothing in the West on a larger scale than they are now doing is simply because the people cannot buy them. I have reason to believe that we may be able to add eight or ten, indeed fifteen cents, a