

have estimated that over two millions of people have left Canada in that period, especially in the more recent years.

One hesitates to draw attention to such a deplorable condition of public affairs, but it is necessary to do so. It is necessary because of the disastrous results which are accruing from the exodus now taking place. What has the present Government done since its accession to office to deal with this important subject? I give credit to the present Minister of the Interior, who likewise looks after immigration, for doing what he can. But this is a subject that is more important—I say it advisedly—than any other with which the Government has to deal. There is not a special department allotted to look after it. There was a time, when it was not so necessary that we had a Department of Immigration, with a staff to give exclusive attention to the promotion of immigration and the conducting of propaganda in the United States and in Europe. There was a time when we had public offices in nearly every leading city in Europe and in the United States. I am not acquitting the late Government of indifference to the subject of immigration; but it is now a matter of sufficient importance to demand the attention of the present Government, entirely irrespective of what former Governments have done. So far as I can ascertain, nearly all the ramifications that were established at considerable expense, and which were effective in their results, have been wiped out, and we are to-day depending upon such little propaganda as proceeds from Canada, by way of advertising and otherwise, to secure immigrants. At one time we depended largely upon the steamship and transportation companies to secure immigrants from European points. That system was subject, and very properly subject, to censorious criticism on account of the class of citizens brought into Canada.

In my judgment, honourable gentlemen, until a special body of competent experts is organized by the Government to deal exclusively with this subject, and to conduct propaganda not only in America but throughout Europe, through coming into close contact with the governments on both continents, we shall never have satisfactory results from our immigration policy. The mere advertising of the resources or advantages of Canada to the immigrant, whether it be in the United States or in Europe, is in my judgment futile. Of course, there is this to be said about it—and it is a problem that should engage the attention of the best minds in Canada—that it is futile to bring thousands

of people to Canada at enormous expense if they are then to emigrate to the United States. That, of course, is one of the problems that has to be considered. But this subject is invested with such important results to Canada that we are now reaching the question of whether the destiny of Canada of becoming a great people is to be fulfilled, or whether we are to fall into a decadent period of non-progress and are to remain as we have been since Confederation.

When we think of the United States less than a century ago having less population than Canada has to-day, and to-day having 120,000,000 people, and being practically the greatest national entity in the world, we wonder what Canada is going to do. Unless Canada makes extraordinary progress, she must necessarily fall back and become reactionary without any hope of a national future.

This involves something more than the question of immigration. It involves the question of national sentiment. Are we in Canada going to become a people? Is there a national sentiment in Canada to-day? I hesitate very much to express my opinion, but in my judgment there is no adequate national spirit in Canada to-day. The spirit of Canada to-day is not very much more national that it was at the time of Confederation. I do not find the people of the different provinces interesting themselves in the propagation of a Federal spirit to the same degree as the people of the different states in the republic to the south of us. The same parochial feeling exists to-day that has ever existed. Until we get beyond that and feel that a national duty is upon our shoulders to build up a national spirit entirely irrespective of the province to which we belong, Canada will never fulfil its destiny.

I was very much amused in reading an article from the Montreal Herald in which it joined in the chorus of adulation to the declarations of the Prime Minister. That paper, in speaking of the achievements which I have pointed out, and which are a little illusory, said:

These short twelve months have served to change the whole face of the Dominion. Disunion and doubt have been replaced by unity and understanding. Confidence and trust have taken the place of distrust and despair. Even Providence has graciously taken a part in restoring prosperity to a country struggling for weary years under the burden of Conservative mis-rule and we are enabled on this anniversary to expand our chests and boast of being the greatest wheat exporting country in the world.

Even to the appropriation of the dispensation of the bounties of Providence, the Prime Minister has made his claim, and like-