

the feelings of the whole people of which she is the head, and has shewn the American nation that we are at one with them in their great calamity.

The undivided interests of the country, agriculture, manufactures and commerce, are in the highest state of prosperity. Agriculture must form the basis of that prosperity, but among a versatile, intelligent and industrious population like ours, something more, honorable though it is, is needed in order fully to employ our population. Manufactures and commerce are essential elements in our progress, and it is the duty of those to whom is entrusted the shaping of our policy to legislate for such industries as will furnish employment to our own people and to such as may be induced by such industries to come amongst us, to whom it is obviously to our interest to tender a cordial welcome as well as a helping hand. The lesson which has been taught us by the United States in respect to the advantages which have accrued to that country by the immense influx of emigration from all parts of the world must not be lost. All Canadian statesmen and leaders of public opinion, without respect to party, should strike hands in the furtherance of this one great object of peopling our immense domains.

The Government has steadily pursued a course which is calculated to build up this great territory so fortunately acquired by us in the North West, the resources of which can even now be scarcely grasped by the imagination.

The contract for building the Pacific Railway, although it has been subjected to the severest scrutiny and the most searching criticism, has commended itself to the public mind. The progress of the work, as set forth in the Speech from the Throne, far exceeds the promises made by those who have undertaken it. All portions of the work are proceeded with in a manner that leaves no reasonable doubt that it will be brought to completion much within the time stipulated. The results to flow from the completion of this gigantic undertaking cannot be easily exaggerated.

The information, in respect to the resources of the country traversed by our great transcontinental highway, although as yet imperfect, is sufficient to shew that in this vast territory to be opened up,

Canada possesses wealth beyond computation, and our people are to be congratulated that the problem of developing that wealth is now made clear.

Canada is deeply indebted to His Excellency the Governor-General for having undertaken an extended journey over those vast regions; a journey attended with many difficulties and extending over a large portion of the uninhabited southerly territory lying between the Red River and the Rocky Mountains. The valuable information thus gained by his practical experience and made public by him in his eloquent speeches on both sides of the Atlantic has largely increased public attention which had already been drawn to these regions, and cannot fail to be of great service in the promotion of emigration.

The land subsidy granted to the Railway, without which all that vast territory would be of no practical value, is estimated at one-tenth of the productive area and it must be borne in mind that this subsidy consists of alternate sections and that the lands retained by the Government must be benefited in equal proportions with those which are granted in this subsidy and must, therefore, be intrinsically a source of vast revenues to the Dominion, and form a sound basis for the payment of our public debt, while in the near future it is conceded that we shall derive from excise and customs duties from its population a sum which will provide the interest and sinking fund of the cash subsidy.

It is most gratifying to think that the just and merciful policy which has always characterized the dealings of the Government with the Indian tribes within our borders, and which was also a marked characteristic of the Hudson Bay Company, has borne its fruits in the confidence which these helpless people have felt and continue to repose in our dealings with and treatment of them. Perhaps it may be too much to hope that their nomadic habits can be so far changed as to reconcile them to a permanent residence and to agricultural pursuits, but if this shall prove to be impossible it will not be because of want of effort in that direction on the part of those who are entrusted with the responsibility of dealing with this interesting race.

It is a wise policy, in view of the con-