

esting problems than Canada. She is young, with vast areas of productive lands—a country of opportunity and not sufficiently advanced in any one direction to preclude avoiding the difficulties into which other countries have fallen. It is true that we have fallen into the same error as our neighbour in the matter of the population of our cities over-balancing that of rural Canada. This can be overcome by stimulating the settlement of our vacant lands. That has always been admitted as a sound public policy. In fact to-day it is imperative that we do so in view of our heavy expenditures very properly made on account of the war. At the end of our last fiscal year, 31st March, 1915, our national debt was \$449,376,083. Our commitments at that time in connection with the Hudson Bay Railway, the New Welland Canal, and other public works stood at about \$100,000,000, and our war and other expenditures to the end of the present calendar year will, with existing commitments, amount to a total of probably nine hundred million dollars, and this without considering our obligations in connection with railway construction in recent years. Therefore our tax load will necessarily be quite heavy until we materially increase our production, and that means more people on our vacant lands.

May I therefore turn for a moment and touch on two of our larger inter-related problems, viz., Immigration and Railways. How often have we heard sections of the press criticize this Government or that Government for its inefficiency in the matter of a vitalized immigration policy. We seem to have laid too much stress on policies and too little on organization. It is not so much the question of constructing an immigration policy as of getting behind it and making it a success. The best policy ever devised will not work automatically; in fact every business in the course of development requires some elasticity in its policy. The question is one of human energy. It means then organization. Any immigration policy will always work up or down to the level of the organization controlling it. Naturally we should look for a great organization.

This question of immigration, is by far the most important service in Canada; none other can approach it, and yet it is not even conducted in a department by itself. The strength of a country is in the character of its people, and if we are to be large importers of men and women we need to develop a strong permanent organization, instead of one largely changed with each incoming administration. No public official has greater responsibility than our immigration officer stationed on the boundary of the country, looking into the faces of incoming people. He has to decide whether they belong to the producing class and are to be admitted, or are likely to become a burden to our public institutions, and therefore should be refused admittance.