

only two things—good management, and improvement in conditions in the country. There must be increasing traffic for the railway before a report of that character could be made; and that traffic has come to both of the great railways of this country because of continued development and improved industrial conditions in Canada.

Mention was made, and quite rightly, of the great harvest in Canada at large. On the western plains alarming conditions existed in the early part of the harvest season, and it was feared that what promised to be one of the most bountiful crops would be completely destroyed or largely damaged on account of weather conditions. I think I am warranted in saying that conditions improved until practically the crop was almost as good as it would have been had not bad weather interfered. At any rate, in the whole of Western Canada there has been a very large crop, with good financial returns.

However, in viewing agricultural conditions in Western Canada it is a mistake to base our judgment as to the prosperity of that section of our Dominion on grain crops alone. It is true that a few years ago grain was the chief product of our western farms, but a vast and very remarkable and welcome change has taken place, and agricultural wealth is being produced not only through crops of grain, but also through mixed farming. I should like to say something about that particular development, because I sometimes think that the country at large is not acquainted with what is taking place; and if I refer to the Province of Alberta it will be only because I possess the figures in regard to the development of that province.

Alberta was created a province in 1905, but five years before that, in 1900, the total value of all the dairy products of the farms of that province was barely over \$500,000. In 1924, as shown by the last figures I have available, the value of dairy products in Alberta had reached a total of \$23,000,000. That is proof that the western farmer has been heeding the advice given in past years by leaders in industry and finance in Eastern Canada. Our farmers probably did not like the advice when it was given, but conditions warranted a change from grain-growing alone to mixed farming. Although when the province was created Alberta was able to produce only sufficient dairy products for its own use, there was exported in a recent year over 4,000,000 pounds of butter to other parts of the world. In 1905 the total value of agricultural products in Alberta was \$20,000,000; in 1925, this last year, the value of agricultural products in that province alone reached the great sum of

\$254,000,000. That is not due to grain alone. It is due to this change in the character of our farming, and the fact that our people are engaging more and more in diversified agriculture.

A notable incident has occurred within the past few weeks that I want to bring to your attention in connection with a view that I am going to advance with regard to immigration. You all know of the International Stock Exposition which is held at Chicago. The awards made at that Exposition are regarded as carrying with them the world's championship. That is to say, a man who goes there and wins a prize for grain is recognized as the world's champion in that field. This year the chief prizes for both oats and wheat went to a man whose farm is situated in the Province of Alberta 450 miles north of the American boundary. It is an interesting fact that it is possible to raise grain of prize-winning quality in such a region. I might also recall that in 1876, fifty years ago, long before the creation of the Province of Alberta, the chief prize for wheat at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia was awarded to a man at Fort Vermilion, some 700 miles north of the American boundary. That will establish in your minds the vast possibilities of that country, and will help you to realize that even in the most northern sections it is possible to make a success of agriculture.

But the point I wish to make has to do with the immigration problem that is facing the country. At no time in Canada's history have we needed people more than we do at the present time. We have a huge debt; we have a railroad problem; and the chief solution of our difficulties seems to depend upon bringing more people and more capital into our country and further developing our vast natural resources.

There are many angles to our immigration problem. There are some people who say that we should bring into Canada only people of British stock; there are others who hold that it is in the interests of the country to bring in people from all over the world and settle them on the plains of the West; there are others who argue that above all we need men of experience—that it is foolish to settle on the land men who have no knowledge of agriculture. I am inclined to agree with this last opinion, but at the same time I do not argue that men without agricultural experience cannot make a success of agriculture. The gentleman who won the prize at Chicago this year never saw a farm until a few years ago. He fought in the war, and after his return he went to the University of Alberta and grad-