

Hon. Mr. HAIG: I want to thank him for the investigation he made, under the chairmanship of the honourable senator for Parkdale (Hon. Mr. Murdock), into the subject of immigration.

We need immigration to this country. I do not know the exact figures, but I believe that during the last year we lost 24,000 of our best men and women to the United States. We are going to continue to suffer from these heavy losses unless we do something towards increasing the population of our country. All my life, except for a year or two, I have lived in the province of Manitoba. I was teaching school on June 23, 1896, when the Laurier Government came into power. About four years later the Honourable Mr. Sifton, who was then Minister of the Interior, brought thousands of people into this country under an immigration policy. I say quite candidly to you that we can get an equally good or an even better class of immigrants at the present time owing to the conditions in Europe. We can get many people, not only from Europe, to come to this country if we give them the opportunity. It is said that our soldiers must be employed before we admit other people. Well, I ask, how is that going to be done when it is necessary to bring out 4,000 Poles to go on the farms? Why were they brought here? It was because our men would not go on the farms. Why are those who are engaged in the production of pulpwood clamouring for men? Because our people will not go into the bush. I do not blame the men who will not go into the bush. Do not misunderstand me. I have found out that the first, or certainly the second generation of those whom the government of 1900 brought into this country will not do the jobs which the original immigrants did when they came here. Take railroading, for instance. In the early days the C.P.R. which was the principal railroad at that time, employed mainly continental Europeans as section men. Then came the Englishman. Gradually the English dropped out until only the boss was an Englishman; all the rest were men from Central Europe. Today the only men engaged in that work are from central Europe, and it has become so difficult to do this work by sections that the railroads have had to work by gangs.

We need more people. Think of the opportunities available in the country north of Edmonton, in northern Saskatchewan, and in northern Manitoba. It may be said that it is cold there. Yes, it is cold; it was cold when my father went to Manitoba, and he lived to be 92. He lived in the West for

about fifty years, and other men have done the same thing. I believe there are opportunities in our northern country. Take for instance the mineral development of northern Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta; and we find the same situation in Quebec and Ontario. There are abundant opportunities for men who want to go into that country and develop it. Our young men and women of ability will drift to where the opportunities are greatest; there is no doubt about that. We have the machinery available. Our two transcontinental systems could, with very little additional extension, handle a population of 25,000,000 people. The same is true of our municipalities, our provincial governments and our dominion government. All the work required to take care of a large additional population could be done with very little extra expense. We must take the opportunity when it offers, because once the people of Europe settle down and return again to their own ways they will not want to come to this country. The only ones who will come will be the wastrels. I am therefore of opinion that the honourable senator for Toronto-Trinity did a real service to this house and to Canada when he brought forward this subject for our consideration.

The next point which is dealt with in the Speech from the Throne is defence; and reference is made to finance and to export trade. These apart from some special questions to which I wish to refer, cover the Speech from the Throne.

I want to say a word about the political situation in Canada.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Good!

Hon. Mr. HAIG: It may not be what you expect. I will deal with this more fully later.

Having had the honour of being in New York recently at the meeting of the United Nations, I came away with one thought uppermost in my mind. I am not going to deal with general problems, but with a point which particularly concerns Canada. I am impressed with it after having been at the meeting of the Canadian Bar Association at Winnipeg in the last week of August, when a certain issue was raised. This is an issue which is not restricted to Canada or the United States; but we people here, perhaps more than those of any other nation, face a struggle between communism and democracy. Make no mistake about it; it is a life and death struggle.

There is no use condemning the Communists: that will not get us any place. What we have to do is to show that under a system of democracy a young country like ours, with