

of the great lakes specially fit to grow men. Such a country is one of the greatest gifts of Providence to the human race; better than bonanzas of silver or rivers whose sands run gold."

Need I ask, "Are Canadian brains so dull, are Canadian arms so weak, are Canadian hearts so timorous, that with such a country behind them they should fear competition with any quarter of the world whatsoever?"

Sir, I perceive that these men in their journals make a loud boast of our prosperity to-day, but it was not always so. Let me ask them to what do we mainly owe that prosperity? I think that any man will admit that our prosperity, particularly in Ontario, is chiefly due to the rapid settlement and development of the Northwest.

INFLUX OF AMERICANS

Now to what has that extraordinary rapidity been mainly due? I can tell these gentlemen that the main influencing cause has been the influx of United States settlers of a high class, and that any one of the men who come to us from the States with experience and capital, are worth more to us than half-a-dozen European emigrants, and indeed, are only equalled by our own people who were lost or driven into exile during the fifteen years of Conservative misrule from 1881 to 1896.

How great the number of these settlers has been and how great the wealth they have brought with them, you may learn by a statement furnished me by the Department of Agriculture. That Department states that in the last calendar year, 1910, over 120,000 settlers from the United States arrived in the Northwest, and that they brought with them an amount of capital equal to at least \$130,000,000.

Now I do not pledge myself to the strict accuracy of this latter statement; indeed, at first I was disposed to dispute it. But when the Department called my attention to the fact that a very large percentage of these people were men in the prime of life, and a very great number of them brought in very large sums of money in the shape of letters of credit and actual cash in hand, I am not in a position to contradict the estimate they made.

This statement, if correct, would go very far to explain the extraordinary rapidity with which our revenue has increased within the past three or four years, and also to account for the large balance of trade now apparently against us.

GREAT POLITICAL ADVANTAGES

So much for the material advantages which are likely to accrue—what of the political ones? Now, sir, who are these men who would advise us to spurn the overtures of the United States, who are they who would set us in hostility to the greatest of English-speaking nations? Sir, I tell you that these men are the true spiritual descendants of those miserable mannikins who undid the work of Pitt, who threw away the noblest empire the world has ever seen and who, in the twenty years from 1763 to 1783, brought England from the highest place she has ever reached, or is ever likely to reach, to the very verge of ruin.