

1921—30 prizes, with 3 Grand Championships, one in oats, and one in each of peas and alfalfa.

1922—35 prizes, with 3 Grand Championships, one in each of oats, barley and peas.

1923—44 prizes, with 3 Grand Championships, one in each of wheat, oats and red clover.

Hon. Mr. GASGRAIN: How many prizes were there altogether?

Hon. Mr. COTE: They won as many as they could win of Grand Championships, and they won more than any other Province of the Dominion or any State of the Union.

Finally, Sir Sandford Fleming recommended that the C. P. R. line be built through the Yellowhead Pass. It is difficult to understand why so excellent a recommendation was not carried out, but was apparently obliterated with a stroke of the pen. It can well be imagined that if the Canadian Pacific Railway had been constructed in accordance with Sir Standford's proposal, the Company would have saved millions and millions; the Western Provinces would have been settled much more rapidly, and at the same time, I believe, it would have prevented a great deal of subsequent railway construction, undertaken not so much in the public interest as for private gain. I do not mean by this that we have too many transportation lines, but we have too many that run parallel, close to one another, and lack feeders. These lines, not being self-sustaining, proved in consequence to be too heavy a burden on the taxpayers of the West and could not but fail ultimately, at the expense of the state.

The Speech from the Throne announces that the Government hopes this year to balance its budget. I am pleased to observe that it has realized the necessity for economy in all public affairs. In the last dozen years, particularly on account of the war, taxes have considerably increased. It is therefore desirable to give as much relief as possible to the taxpayer. I believe it is likewise important to make a careful revision of the tax-scale in order to remove certain inequalities which weigh more heavily in a period like the present, when taxes are high and hard to bear; remembering always that the agriculturist cannot adjust his taxes by adding to the selling price, but must pay in real money.

Agriculture being our most important industry, being indeed the very foundation of our economic life, I hope that the Govern-

Hon. Mr. COTE.

ment will decide to remove the duty on implements required for production. This would greatly facilitate the development and progress of the great provinces of the West, at the same time creating new or larger markets for the manufacturers in the eastern provinces. There would result a stronger feeling of unity among the different provinces, and the entire country would benefit.

The world war, the ruinous effects of which are still felt throughout the world, struck us at a time when our progress was at full tide, when our population was rapidly increasing, thanks to the vigorous policy of advancement and expansion carried out during the fifteen years of energetic and wise administration by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The great catastrophe brought us to a sudden stop and has long delayed the realization of our hopes. I like to think, however, that the vigorous and wholesome policy of immigration, and especially repatriation inaugurated by the Government, will bring to us the labour we need for a great increase in our agricultural production, which will contribute to the prosperity and development of Canada as a whole.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Honourable gentlemen, it is customary on an occasion like the present to extend our congratulations to the mover and the seconder of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. My honourable friend who moved this Address has been for so many years associated with the political activities of this Dominion that it is entirely unnecessary to address to him any words of encouragement from this side of the House. Suffice it to say that what he has said this afternoon very largely coincides with the situation as viewed by most of us, except the position which he has taken upon the Branch Lines Bill.

My honourable friend who has seconded the Address comes from my own Province, and I not only extend to him our congratulations upon his becoming a member of this Chamber, but would also express my satisfaction at his appointment. For a great many years he has been prominently identified with the development and progress of the Province to which we both belong. He has been not only an active member of the Legislature of that Province, but was for some years in its Government. I am sure that my honourable friend's presence in this House will be an acquisition to the Chamber.

I have read with considerable interest the Speech from the Throne. Certainly, one arriving here from another sphere and entirely unacquainted with the affairs of Canada