

the West, and particularly Manitoba, have long awaited such a step. We want only what is fair and reasonable, we want only what we believe is constitutionally ours; and I repeat, it was a great pleasure to me as a westerner to hear in the Speech from the Throne, the first time, I believe, any such intimation has been given in that way, that a settlement of this long outstanding question was under negotiation.

Undoubtedly, it is an evidence of the goodwill of the Government and of the people of the East towards the people of the West. In this connection I cannot help making reference to the gracious act that has been accorded to the West by the province of Quebec in providing a constituency and a seat for the Honourable the Minister of the Interior (Hon. Mr. Stewart). That gracious act was indicative, I believe, of the goodwill of the people of the East towards the people of the West, of the French-speaking people towards their English-speaking compatriots.

The Speech from the Throne in its opening paragraphs contained a reference to unemployment, and intimated that the Government would continue, at least for the present year, measures of relief in that connection. Unemployment is a painful thing. It is with us very largely because of the dislocation of business caused by the war. Many returned men and many skilled artisans are idle, and it was therefore very gratifying to learn in the Speech from the Throne that there has been an appreciation of that condition.

Then there is the question of the returned soldier. Some arrangement must be made in that regard. We cannot do greater honour to the soldier, the living or the dead, than to provide for his dependents, and for those who have been disabled. We cannot do too much, within reason, in that regard.

These problems that we have to face are tremendous; they cannot be minimized. They are problems worthy of the calibre of the Canadian people. Our problems are great, but compared with the lot of other people we, in this country, are comparatively fortunate. Canada can be compared to a young athlete who has been stunned in a struggle, only to rise stronger to continue the battle to ultimate victory, like the fabled wrestler of old who when he touched his mother earth only rose the stronger. Time and tide are with Canada. Time runs in Canada's favour. The recuperative powers of a country are a combination of its resources and its people,

[Mr. McMurray.]

and the history of Canada has proven us to be an intelligent, industrious, and resourceful people. Our resources are very great, in fact, almost illimitable when compared with most other countries. We have a vast extent of fertile land, some three hundred million acres, of which but one-sixth, or some fifty million acres, is under cultivation. We can produce food in as great a variety as the German Empire, and yet the German Empire, by reason of its food supply, was capable of defying the world in arms for a period of years. The German Empire is a mere pigmy compared with Canada in the area of its fertile food-producing land. We have vast forests, some five hundred thousand square miles, two hundred thousand square miles of which is saw timber. And yet with these vast forests we actually have Germany to-day, with its forests planted on the sand dunes, competing against us in the American markets in the pulp industry. Great as is our fertile land in Canada, it constitutes but about fifteen per cent of the total area of the country.

We have also over two million square miles of mineral lands. The mineral lands of Canada are unusual and different from those found almost anywhere else. As a rule, in the matter of minerals, Mother Nature has hidden her jewels well, but we have that great pre-Cambrian range extending down from the north and crossing into Minnesota and Michigan. We have merely touched the fringe of its wealth. Yet we have the Cobalt and the nickel mines of Sudbury—the Hollinger gold mine—the Flin Flon, with its twenty million tons of copper—we have that great iron range extending down into Minnesota—we are on the edge of the great copper ledges of Michigan. Great as are our agricultural resources, high as Canada stands in the agricultural world to-day, some day in the future she may stand still higher as a mineral-producing nation.

We have in our oceans and inland waters vast resources in fish. In water powers we stand second in the world. Undoubtedly, in the very near future water power will take the place of coal in our homes and in our industries; it will operate the transcontinental trains.

In addition to all these resources our railways are built, the trunk lines at least; we have built our canals. The stage is all set. What do we lack? Canada lacks but two things. We are short in man power, and short in capital. Is there a solution to the