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ADDRESS
ON COLONIZATION

DELIVERED BY
BRIG.-GEN. H.F. McDONALD
C. M. G. D. S. O.

BEFORE
THE
CONVENTION
OF THE
BOARD OF TRADE
OF
WESTERN CANADA

AT
CALGARY, ALBERTA

MAY THE NINETEENTH
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Brigadier-General H. F. McDonald:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:

I dislike very strongly to have to apologise to a meeting of this character but in this case I must ask you to forgive me for not coming before you with a carefully-prepared and written statement, which would possibly contain a great deal more detail than I can remember of the information which I would like to give you, but as you are aware it was at first proposed that this discussion should have been opened this morning by Colonel J. S. Dennis, the Chief Commissioner for Colonization of the Canadian Pacific Railway. I am sure that here, as anywhere in Western Canada, there will be felt a great feeling of regret at the unfortunate state of circumstances which overshadows Colonel Dennis at the present time and which prevents his attendance here. Had you been privileged to hear Colonel Dennis today you would have heard from Western Canada's greatest colonization expert and a man whose vision is without equal, I confidently believe, in this country and a man whose services to this country have been extraordinary. I, therefore, feel in a very apologetic mood this morning to think that I have to take the place of such a distinguished exponent of this subject. At every session, which I have been privileged to attend of this conference, as your Chairman has said, the subject of colonization has been referred to in no uncertain terms. The movement of peoples is history. I believe that the influx of peoples, which will come to this country in the next decade or two, will do more to establish the future of the country and to

lay down the lines upon which this ultimate development will take place than any other incident or series of incidents which have happened in this country's history heretofore. We are gathered here together, Gentlemen, as representatives of the National Institutions of this Western country, to take thought together as to how conditions can be improved and how the national development can best be served. It requires no great degree of investigation or extended thought to see that upon the development of the great industry of agriculture depends absolutely and fundamentally the development of this country from the Great Lakes to the Pacific Ocean no matter what sphere of activity you may be considering. The careful logical and proper development of that industry must mould the nation's future in no small measure. In this great industrial basin of Central North America, we hold the balance of power and more than the balance of power in regard to the production of foodstuffs of the world and the people who produce the foodstuffs of the world will produce the civilization which is going to exist in the world. And, therefore, gentlemen, the more you consider this subject of colonization the more you are forced to consider the subject of the people who will be brought into this country to settle upon these lands and to bring them into production. And the more you consider this phase of the question the more serious will become your thoughts and the more you will see how carefully and how intelligently the business interests of the country should consider these problems. The agricultural industry of this country, as I have said, is the basic one and when

we look at these maps which have been so carefully and so ably prepared by Mr. William Pearce, we see the great problems which lie before us.

We have been making this statement in connection with the work which we have been undertaking to stimulate colonization, that there are twenty million acres of areable land lying within reasonable distance of the railways of this country. Mr. Pearce has made a report on it, of which he has been good enough to give me a copy and in which he places the figure at thirty-four million acres and I certainly bow to Mr. Pearce's superior knowledge in the matter. Even with the information which we have I did not for one moment realize that we had so seriously underestimated these vacant areas. We require in this country a large, a very large, influx of agricultural population. We require people to take up these lands, to live on them, to develop them and in addition to that, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, we require a very large supply of agricultural labor. The problem of agricultural labor as apart from the farmer himself is one which must give us very serious thought. In this country, at this particular time we are facing a very great shortage of what we have often referred to as the pick and shovel men. The development of the country is being retarded by that lack and various proposals have been put forward to remedy it. We have I feel, been too anxious to secure agricultural and other labourers, whose only qualification is that they are thick in the head or weak in the head and strong in the knees. Some people of late, whose knowledge of Chinamen has perhaps been limited

to having sent their laundry to a Chinese laundry occasionally have suggested in a vague and generous sort of way that we should import anywhere from five to one hundred thousand Chinamen under contract to undertake our labors. That may be a suitable solution for the problem of our rough labor. gentlemen, I am not prepared to discuss that at the present time, I only know a policy of that kind has embroiled our sister Dominions of South Africa and Australia in serious difficulties. People who, two or three years ago, did not know whether the Kingdom of Czecho-Slovakia was in Sweden or Siberia, spoke gaily of stopping one hundred thousand of those soldiers on their way back from the front, stopping them in Canada, to undertake our labors here. These solutions are very easy to talk about, bringing in such bodies of men but they are very difficult of carrying out and we are not in a position in this country, to plunge into experiments of this nature when our virgin and fertile lands are at stake. Canada has been in the peculiar position of having emigration going on from its borders when the greatest need in the world which it required was immigration. In the last ten years we have sent to the United States from Canada alone, from the whole of Canada, approximately one million two hundred thousand people. In the last twenty years we have brought in a total of one million, three hundred thousand people. Last years, I quote from an article in the University Magazine, entitled "The Immigrant", by Sir Andrew MacPhail, to which I would direct your attention if you are interested in this matter, and the statement is made there that last year, bringing it down to such a late date

as then, that fifty-seven thousand born Canadians left the borders of this country with the avowed intention of making their homes in the United States and even although that happened, the United States is facing a similar condition to that which we are, and from her experiences we can very well draw lessons. The statement is made, and I know that Sir Andrew McPhail would not make such statements without authority, that last January, the United States for the first time in her history suffered a loss in population and during the entire last year her increase in population due to immigration was only some twenty-one thousand people. I quote these few details, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, to lay before you the serious situation in which we find ourselves, we have these large areas of vacant lands. We are not in the normal course of events or by the efforts which are being carried on at the present time successful in our immigration policy. We are not securing the influx of people which we need and which is necessary. Our big public debts which were incurred in the war are overshadowing us with their frightful power. We saw in the papers yesterday the budget which was put forward by Sir Henry Drayton and the taxes which we have to pay, taxes which bring home to our pockets the very serious condition of affairs now existing. When the purchaser of an article in a retail store has at the same time to pay the taxes, it is a very salutary way of expressing upon him the seriousness of the public debt. To relieve the burden which this great struggle has put upon all of us, there is only one solution and that is an increase in population and an increase in production. The figures, of which I have

only quoted a very few, are sufficient to reveal to you what I have already said, that we are not getting the immigration that we need and which our country demands. You will say, "What is the country doing?" Is it not the province of government to undertake this work? It is the province of government, of any democratic government, to undertake any work which will increase the prosperity of the country and work for the benefit of her citizens but when I point out to you that practically all of the area of this arable land lying in close proximity to the railways has been alienated from the Crown, practically all of it is in the hands of private owners, then you will readily understand that no government for obvious reasons could undertake the direct settlement of that land. The government can undertake propoganda, they can undertake advertising and the spreading of general inducements to people to come into the country but as you will see, as I say for obvious reasons, they cannot undertake the direct disposal of lands of private owners and it is not with any intention of criticizing the work which the government are carrying on at the present time that I make this reference to their work. The Canadian Pacific Railway has probably been the greatest colonizing force, gentlemen, which we have had in this country and I would make the statement, not with any degree of authority, but from what I feel sure is correct, that in all probability the expenditure which the Canadian Pacific Railway has made in colonization during its existence is at least equal to that which have been made by the Dominion government during the same period. The Canadian Pacific Railway is

naturally interested primarily in the colonization of its own lands and it is not to be expected that it will directly undertake the colonization of lands which do not belong to it, although I am quite sure, and I know from my experience with that company, that the private owners of lands, have profited and profited very largely by the efforts of the Canadian Pacific Railway Colonization department.

These are some of the agencies which are at work and it was with some thoughts approximating these that at the last annual meeting of the Alberta Industrial Development Association, delegates were invited to attend to consider the problem of colonization and to endeavor to find some solution of our present difficulties. We have had in the Province of Alberta, the Alberta Industrial Development Association organized for over a year and the purpose of that association has been to assist in the development of the natural resources of the province, to encourage the establishment of industries here and to foster the enquiry and research by the government into the natural resources of the province. It became very patent to those interested in this association that industrial development was entirely dependent upon an increase in our population and that to a large degree, industrial development in our country was practically impossible until the population had become very much greater. Therefore, we, at the annual meeting of this association in February last in Edmonton, took up the question of colonization. It was decided at that meeting that it was a very proper subject for the business men of this country to become interested in

and in which to take an active part and it was therefore decided at that meeting to undertake the formation of an association to cover the whole of Western Canada and to have for its object the proper solution of the problem of colonization. We considered the various phases of the subject, completed the organization of an association so far as Alberta was concerned and laid down four principal objects for the association to carry out. These objects were, first, to co-ordinate the efforts which are being made by governments, federal and provincial, by transportation companies and by any other agencies engaged in colonization in Western Canada. We felt that an association such as we were forming could very well examine the work which the Dominion government was doing, examine the work which the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian National Railways were doing, examine the work the Hudson's Bay Company was doing, and examine the work which all the other agencies engaged in colonization were doing and to co-ordinate the work which they were carrying on, see that there was no over-lapping, no duplication of effort and to advise them in what way their energies could be extended, to the best possible advantage. The second object which we laid down for the association was the direct settlement of these twenty million acres or whatever quantity there might be of these large areas of vacant, arable land lying close to the railways. That was the second object we laid down. There lay a work which was obvious to our hand, which was urgently needed by the country and which need was insistently before us at all times. We did not attempt to lay down, in putting forward that object, how the pro-

gram should be carried out. How the settlers should be secured. What type of settlers should be striven for or in any way tie the hands of the association at that early period. We felt, as we still feel, that the problem is one for very great consideration, for consideration by the very best experts, one for the very best knowledge which can be secured on this subject and for a great amount of deliberation before any such policy can be laid down.

Then we laid down another object for the association and that is the direction, so far as possible, of inter-provincial colonization. We have seen, the most of you gentlemen have seen, a great deal more than I have, of this subject because I am a native of Western Canada. We have seen the large numbers of native young men of the Maritime Provinces, of Quebec and of Ontario, who have from time to time, left their home province and gone over to the United States. Is it not a fact that large numbers of these young men would have come to Western Canada had there been some inducement placed before them or some effort made to lay before them the attractions of Western Canada and its possibilities and opportunities? It is a saying which runs current in the Maritime Provinces that there are more natives of these provinces in the United States than there are in the Maritime Provinces themselves and I am quoting Sir Andrew MacPhail's article in which he says there is one province in which one out of every five of its natives live in the United States. Then there is another phase of this inter-provincial colonization which we might consider. Last Winter I believe some twenty-one thousand

farmers from the Prairie Provinces spent their winter in California and spending a Winter in California, as some of you may know, is not an operation which can be carried out without an expenditure of a few dollars and when you multiply that twenty-one thousand by the number of dollars which each one of these farmers must have spent in their pleasant Winter, you will see the great loss which has been suffered by Canada. Not one month ago a gentleman in the City of Omaha in the United States, when he saw in the press some remarks about the formation of the Western Canada Colonization Association, wrote to us and wanted to know whether it was possible for him to secure large areas of land in Saskatchewan to dispose of. In his letter by way of recommending himself and his firm he described the campaign which he had been carrying on in the irrigated lands of Texas of which he had sold some six million acres and he informed us in that letter, among his clients were a very large number of farmers from Saskatchewan. Surely our brethern on the Pacific Coast can offer advantages which will offset those even of Texas and surely we can direct, if we go about it properly, the flow of settlers and of visitors from this country to our own Pacific Coast cities rather than to the Pacific Coast to the South. (Applause). Surely the Pacific Coast can offer to the farmer, who has had a successful career upon the prairies, and who in his advanced years seeks a place where leisure is possible, surely the Pacific Coast, Vancouver Island and the fruit valleys of that great province, can show some inducement for him to go there and live and still be under the British flag. (Applause.)

Then there was a fourth object which we laid down for this organization and to my mind and to the mind of a great number of the gentlemen who are connected with the association, it is the most important one and the most necessary one and the one which will in the final analysis prove the greatest one of all, that is the establishment of a welfare section of this association. The establishment of a section of the association that will look after the settler when he comes in, that will meet him, that will see that he is protected so far as possible, in the price he pays for his land, that will see that he is not exploited by any tradesmen or business men who may be tempted to do so but which will see that he receives the best attention, that he goes to a neighborhood which will be congenial to him, that he buys the proper machinery, that he puts in the proper crop and if he gets into trouble that he receives the best possible advice. I could enlarge upon the possibilities of such an activity indefinitely gentlemen, but I feel sure that you, who have seen settlers coming into this country, those of you who have seen the homesteader going out far into the wilds to pioneer, long miles away from a railway, those of you who have seen that, those of you who have seen the heart-rendering and tragic circumstances which have occurred in many parts of our great West, you will see that such an undertaking, backed and carried out by the business men of the country, will be of inestimable value to this country as a whole. I venture to say, gentlemen, that if such an activity had been undertaken two years ago by an organization as powerful as we hope the Western Canada Colonization Company will be, Mr. Frederick of

Peace River would not have had to come down here last night and try to get a resolution through to provide railway transportation for the people in the Peace River country. (Hear, hear.) I submit that the story which Mr. Frederick so ably told here last night is a powerful argument in favor of the business men of this country uniting into some form of organization as this in order to take care of the colonists and settlers who come into the country and see that they receive the chance which they are entitled to receive and the chance which will advance our country in the eyes of the world. When we look at the colonization activities of our country we cannot feel in them the degree of pride which we should feel. I am not going to quote a great many instances in this connection but I would like to suggest to you a situation which has been described before. It is not original with me but I will describe a situation which would occur should your worthy Chairman, Mr. Mackenzie and myself suddenly decide tomorrow, as many people have decided in other parts of the world, that we wanted to go to another and a far country to settle. Imagine for one moment that Mr. Mackenzie and myself would decide we would go to Western Australia. There are many people who come to Canada a longer distance than that. We have a friend in Western Australia to whom we write and he secures us land that we feel satisfied will suit our purposes and imagine Mr. Mackenzie and myself loading our farm and household goods (Mr. Mackenzie has considerable more than I have), and our families, upon a freight car, getting on ourselves and going away off to Western Australia. Can you imagine our feelings

when we get on the train with our carload of furniture, our cow and our horse and our families. Can you imagine our feelings as we travel that great distance and finally land in some strange little backwoods town and get off there. There is nobody there to meet us. The fellow that we bought our land through is away for the day, threshing is on, or he has to be out somewhere. He cannot meet us. Can you imagine our feelings when we get off at that little backwoods town and we have to go alone and look for somebody to even show us our land, we have to go and ask somebody where the grocery store is to buy our supplies, our harness, our blankets and our machinery. Can you imagine the glee with which our arrival would be welcomed by a certain class of tradesmen and can you imagine the unfortunate result which would occur to ourselves unprotected as we would be in a far country and can you imagine the discouraged letters we would write home? Now, let me paint the other side of it. Let me show you Mr. Mackenzie and myself arriving at Western Australia and the Western Australia Colonization Association has a representative there to meet us, a man who knows the situation perfectly, who knows exactly what to do, he has his team there ready to pull us out to our farm, he has made arrangements and advises us what to buy at the grocery store, what would be best for us to take out to our land, he has arranged for everything for us, he greets us with a happy smile and an open welcome to the country. He follows us for six months or a year or three years if necessary, he helps us and advises us of our start in the new country. What a difference gentlemen, what a difference and what a

difference in the things we write home, what a difference in the advice we give to our friends in the old country to come out. That is the greatest agency which we have in any colonization scheme, the happy and contented letter which the farmer writes home. (Applause.) I submit then, gentlemen, from the very moment that the farmer, the prospective settler, whoever he may be, is asked to come to this country, or from the very moment that the opportunities that this Western country are placed before him, there should be an organization to protect him, to advise him, to encourage him, to help him, from the very time that those opportunities are placed before him, as I say, until the time he is satisfactorily settled on his farm and is prosperous and beyond the reach of want.

I have now placed before you the object in a very small way of this association. Let me for a brief moment, if you will permit me sir, to review the steps which have been taken in completing this organization and the prospects which it has before it. As I have already said, the organization was undertaken last February. At a meeting a council of forty-five prominent men of Alberta were elected to form the nucleus of this association. From that nucleus of forty-five, a provincial executive of eight were elected. This executive consists of His Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor, who consented to act on that committee, Mr. Pat Burns of this city, Mr. James Ramsay of Edmonton, Mr. C. S. Noble of Nobleford, Mr. H. W. Woods, president of the United Farmers of Alberta, Mr. M. R. Jennings, of the Edmonton Journal, Mr. M. A. Brown of Medicine Hat and myself. That execu-

tive was instructed to get into communication with the other provinces to endeavor to interest them in the project and to try to get a like organization in those provinces. That executive was also instructed to approach the province of British Columbia with a view to securing their co-operation and this work was carried out. In the province of Saskatchewan, a similar organization was effected, after a series of meetings which were held with the representative business bodies of that province, and a very representative executive of eight was elected in that province. Perhaps Mr. McDonald will correct me if I miss out any, the executive from that province consisted of the following: Major F. J. James, president of the Board of Trade, Regina, Mr. J. K. McInnes, of Regina, Mr. Peter McAra of Brandon, Mr. J. F. Cairns of Saskatoon, Mr. F. R. MacMillan, of Saskatoon, Mr. J. H. Kern of Moose Jaw, Mr. J. B. Musselman of Regina and Mr. John Crawford of Saskatoon. A very representative and active executive.

In the province of Manitoba the organization was placed in the hands of the Board of Trade of Brandon and Winnipeg. Similar organizations were carried out there and we are fortunate in securing a very representative executive in that province also. They are Mr. A. E. Mackenzie, our good Chairman, who is present here today, Mr. Hodson of Brandon, Mr. J. H. Bowman of Daphin, Mr. J. H. Ashdown of Winnipeg, Mr. Frank Patton of Winnipeg, Mr. H. B. Shaw of Winnipeg, Mr. W. E. Millner of Winnipeg, and Colonel J. Y. Reid. The names on this executive, gentlemen, are a guarantee to you and a guaran-

tee to the rest of Canada, that the operation of any association with which they are connected, will be properly carried on.

We next faced the problem of securing financial support. We recognized that to successfully carry out the operations of an association on the scale which would be necessary, to ensure its complete success, it would be necessary to secure a large amount of money. We have not made plans for the definite expenditure of the money but a general discussion and the consensus of opinion and an enquiry into the various activities which should be carried out, and a comparison with the expenditures which are at present being made by different bodies, was sufficient to justify us in saying that we would require at least a half-million dollars a year for three years. That is a total of a million and a half dollars spread over three years, to successfully carry out the work which was to be carried out by such an organization. We laid that down as a minimum of operation and we laid it down for three years because we considered that it was not fair to ask the business firms to pledge themselves for a longer period than three years, but there is no stipulation that the money so contributed in the three years will be spent in any definite period. It may take longer. The sum of money we ultimately raise may last for five or seven years or perhaps longer but it is not the intention to invite contributions for a period longer than three years. A million and a half dollars, gentlemen, seemed to me a very large amount of money. I have never seen a million and a half dollars and it looked pretty big to me. I am very glad to say that a million and a half dollars does not look any bigger than a mole hill since I

have been down to Eastern Canada in this connection. We felt that in organizing a campaign of this nature it was only fair and it was indeed only just that contributions should be requested from all business firms profiting out of the West, and particularly those in Eastern Canada, and it was with that view that the campaign was carried on. We felt in going to Eastern Canada that, besides the names on the executive, we must have from our Western business men, the leading business men of Western Canada, a considerable financial guarantee, but not only were they behind our organization with their sympathy, with their energy, with their moral support and their efforts, but they were also behind the organization financially. It was therefore decided we should invite prominent gentlemen in Western Canada to become founders of the association in the sum of five and ten thousand dollars spread over a three-year period. I am glad to say that before going East to interview the business men of Eastern Canada, we were successful in securing the sum of eighty-five thousand dollars guaranteed in that way. (Applause)

We were pleased in securing the following. In Alberta: Mr. James Ramsay, ten thousand; Mr. Pat Burns, ten thousand; Mr. George Lane, five thousand, and F. W. Gershaw, of Medicine Hat, five thousand. In Saskatchewan we secured the following: Mr. J. F. Kerrans, Saskatoon, five thousand; Mr. F. R. McMillan, of Saskatoon, five thousand; Mr. J. K. McInnis, of Regina, five thousand, and Mr. W. P. Craig, of Regina, five thousand. In Manitoba we were led off by a gentleman whom you all know and whose public spirit is a credit to this country, Mr. A. E. Mackenzie, leading off the

Manitoba subscription with five thousand dollars. (Prolonged applause.)

We were fortunate in securing also the following men from Manitoba: Mr. J. H. Ashdown, of Winnipeg, ten thousand dollars; Mr. Jerry Robinson, of Winnipeg, five thousand dollars; Mr. George Merrick, ten thousand dollars, and Sir Augustus Nanton, ten thousand dollars. So we felt in going to Eastern Canada we were going not only with the good wishes, not only with the support of a representative section of the business men of Western Canada, but we were also going with what speaks more strongly in those circles, we were going with money in our pockets. The delegation consisted of His Worship Mayor Brown, of Medicine Hat, the Chairman of the Association; Mr. A. E. Mackenzie, Major James of Regina, Lieut.-Colonel J. Y. Reid, of Winnipeg, and myself. We visited Montreal and Toronto and we adopted the same procedure as we had adopted here. We decided to invite prominent gentlemen of Eastern Canada to become founders of the Association, but we felt, in view of the wealth which was generally credited to the East, that we were safe in asking for no contributions less than ten thousand dollars from these individual founders. I am happy to say we visited Montreal and were successful in securing in that city eleven gentlemen to contribute the sum of ten thousand dollars apiece. (Applause.) We went from there to Toronto, and, while we expected to get as large support and we are confident we will get as large support from Toronto, still there were a number of gentlemen away on their holidays, and time would not permit us to see them. However, we were successful in getting three gentlemen there, also, for the sum of ten thousand dollars,

and I am confident there are a large number who have only to be asked on their return to the city of Toronto, in order to get them to contribute. We were not at that time prepared to undertake a campaign amongst the corporations and the business houses of Eastern Canada which are doing business in the West and which are profiting thereby, but we were so encouraged by one corporation, whose name I will not mention for the moment, that we decided to ask them right out there and then, for a contribution and we were successful in getting a contribution from that corporation of fifty thousand dollars. (Applause.)

Now, gentlemen, I am not putting these details before you with any idea of claiming credit to the committee which is carrying on the work nor for what that committee has done. I am putting these facts before you to show you that there is an insistent demand and that there is ample support for such an organization as we propose. I will quote to you the words of Sir Joseph Flavelle, whom we went to see and who, although he has been notorious in some ways, unfortunate ways in Canada, is still one of our great men and one who has the good of this country at heart. He said to us when we went in to see him: "I will help you," after we had put our cause before him he said, "I know nothing about colonization, gentlemen, I know nothing about how your organization will be run, what work it will do in detail," he said, "If I attempted to criticize your project, I probably could not do so intelligently because it is something I do not know anything about and do not understand, but what I do know is that here are five business men of Western Canada who have come all the

way down to the East, who are trying to do something to help themselves and help their country," and he said, "Gentlemen, I am not going to be the first one to block you," and if that is the spirit, and I assure you that is the spirit throughout Eastern Canada, we will not have any difficulty in securing the financial support and every one of those gentlemen who did support us said, "You will not have any difficulty in raising your money if you can be assured of the support of your own people and of the necessary energy to carry out the work." I feel that the work which has already been done, the organization itself and the various branches of this organization welded into one, the appointment which I neglected to state, of a central executive committee which is at present in control of the affairs of the organization, the fact that these delegates in going down East, these business men, gave their services for a long period, and I can assure you, gentlemen, it was hard work down there, the fact that another delegation is now in the East carrying on its campaign approaching the corporations of this country for their support, the fact that already the organization is assured of practically \$300,000 of revenue to expend, justifies me in the statement that it is bound to be a success. Surely I need make no appeals to you gentlemen today for the support of the Boards of Trade throughout Western Canada, for the support of all business men of Western Canada, to this project. The future of the Association, I feel, is assured. The work of collecting the further sum of money is at present being carried on. Every corporation which we can reach, which is doing business in Western Canada, will be approached and will be asked to contribute

and if there are any of you who by correspondence can enlist the sympathy of firms with whom you are doing business, I hope you will take the opportunity and do so. We have already asked several individual firms throughout Western Canada to write to their correspondents in the East asking for favorable consideration of this proposition. When that amount is secured and pledged, or whatever amount we can raise, then will be the time for us to sit down, to gather around our tables the very best experts, to get the very best knowledge from wherever it can be gotten, the very best experience which we can get, in discussing and planning a definite policy of the Association. It would be folly for me or for anyone on the executive or even for the executive itself as it is presently constituted, to lay down at this stage a definite channel for our work. It could not be done but Gentlemen, we say, here is the need, here are people ready to try and remedy the omission and here is the money which we require. Will you help us. When we get the money, we can get the people and when we get the people to sit around the tables and discuss the matter, we will be able to lay down our definite policy and we will be able to say what we should do and I feel sure that our good friends in British Columbia, who perhaps do not realize, who did not fully realize at its inception the magnitude to which the association will grow, will be able to come in with us and to enjoy the fruits of what we are doing. Gentlemen, the time has come and you have reiterated our message in all your meetings here. The moment is a moment of co-operation. The need of this Western country and the need of all Canada is great, very great. The growth of the coun-

try is being held back by a lack of people. There is no prospect that any efforts other than that put forth by the business men of the country will be successful in bringing to this country men and settlers in very large numbers. We have had lessons in the past from which we should profit. We have had lessons in our immigration work which should have taught us wisdom. People have come into this country who have cost us very dear. I am not sure that the entire blame for things which have happened in this country rests upon the people who have come in. I am certain that some of it rests upon ourselves. There are many people who during the last few years have been branded as traitors and whom we have jeered at for not accepting the responsibilities of citizenship, the responsibility of British citizenship in the way they should, I am not sure that we have not, as business men of this country, pushed them outside the pale to such a degree that they have neither appreciated nor desired the responsibilities or the privileges of that citizenship in its proper place. By the efforts of our soldiers in this war and by the efforts of the people who stayed behind and worked and prayed, we have shown to the world the face of a nation. (Applause.) It rests upon the business men of this country, of Eastern and Western Canada, that we shall show to the world and develop within ourselves the heart of a nation. (Applause.) Surely we need no stimulus: we who live in Western Canada, need no stimulus to drive us to public service. Surely this great country and what she has done, what she will do, surely her great plains, her great opportunities, her great fertile prairies, her magnificent people, surely that is stimulus enough to make us

offer ourselves at the alter of public service. There is nothing required, if you are to make this a great country, except citizens with sound hearts and with patriotic motives, and I feel I need make no appeal to you today, in asking you to help us in this practical development of patriotism. Its object is not gain. Its object is not pecuniary gain of any kind but surely to make this broad Dominion an even greater country, a more prosperous country and a country even more to be proud of than at the present time. (Prolonged applause.)

The following Resolution was un-animously passed by the Convention:

“Resolved, that we most heartily endorse the aims and objects of the Western Canada Colonization Association and that we call upon all Boards of Trade of Western Canada to co-operate with this movement to the fullest of their power.”



CITY  PRESS

