

own special responsibilities. We are looking to the future, not thinking so much of the present. We see in this country that a disproportionate number of the people are wholly at the mercy of fluctuations in trade, and that these fluctuations again are subject to the caprice of world-wide conditions which we cannot control. With us world trade is inevitable and indispensable, but we know, too, that a more highly developed Empire means stability and strength; and, stable and strong as is our position now, will make our people yet stronger and more secure in the years to come.

#### DISCUSSION ON COLONEL BUCKLEY'S STATEMENT.

*Mr. Graham:* Mr. Chairman, it is a subject on which I would at once plead comparative ignorance—I say “comparative” because I have some knowledge of it—but never having been very intimately associated with the subject of immigration it is in a sense new to me. I think the situation or the influences that retard immigration are perhaps more psychological than anything else. We cannot apply the same principles, the rule of three, to any branch of either public or private service as we could before the world was turned upside down. We have to approach all these things from a different angle, as we are appealing to a different state of mentality.

#### Results of Settlement Scheme in Canada.

In Canada the advantage that has been taken under the Settlement Act has been productive of, we think, satisfactory results. It must be remembered it was only in May last that Canada proceeded to take advantage of the provisions of this Act, and since that time there has been a rapid improvement, comparatively speaking, of British immigration to Canada. To make a comparison of the British immigration, in 1922 for the first four months, April to July inclusive, there were 16,000; this year, 1923, for the same four months, there were 29,500, an increase of nearly 100 per cent. I might say, broadly, Canada is prepared not only to accept but to endeavour to secure every British immigrant that she can absorb with advantage to the immigrant, the Empire, and herself.

#### Need for a “Follow-up” System in dealing with New Settlers.

A dissatisfied new-comer is, perhaps, the most dangerous advertisement a country can get, and it invariably is the case that among a hundred settlers there will be one or two who will be discontented, and they can do more harm than ninety-nine can do good in the way of advertising the place to which they come. That is one reason why the overseas Dominions felt it essential that they should only endeavour to secure—and an endeavour should only be made to send them—people who are likely to become contented settlers under fair conditions.

The Government has recently made a change in the portfolios. For some months—for something over a year—the Department of Immigration has been under the management of a Minister who had three or four Departments under him. During the last few weeks the Hon. James Robb has been appointed Minister of Immigration, and I think it is useful for the Conference to know that there has been attached to that Department for the first time what is known as “The Soldiers Settlement Board.” It was in the Department of the Interior previously, but under the new arrangement it has been attached to the Department of Immigration. The reason for that is that the machinery provided for the settlement of soldiers has proved efficient, and it is thought that it can be applied with equal efficiency, without the necessity of establishing any new machinery, to the settlement of all new-comers.

It is readily understood, I think, by all who have taken any interest in this question that the securing of a new settler to any country is only the beginning of the steps that are necessary to make his coming a success. What might well be called a “follow-up” system is of more or as much importance as securing the new-comer, because, as has been well pointed out in the remarks just made, which are very comprehensive, distances are great; they are not only great from their original home, but they are great in the new countries themselves, and there should be some method of following up. You first meet the settler and make him welcome; second, escort him to his new home; third, visit him in his new home, through some machinery, to see how he is getting along, and to let him understand that not only the place from which he came but the people to whom he has come are taking an interest in his welfare.

#### Co-operation of Canadian Railways.

We have come, in Canada, to the conclusion that that is one of the chief things in immigration, not only to get the settler, but to look after him after he arrives. I might point out that in addition to that we have during the past few months formed an organization in which the two great railways—the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Canadian National Railway—and the Government are parties. These three, for the first time in the history of Canada, I think, have formed an organization for the purposes of immigration work.

#### Large majority of Canadian Settlers contented.

In the Press, too, much has been said—more than the circumstances warrant—as to the condition in which some settlers a few months ago found themselves. We had an investigation made, and I am safe in saying that conditions are not at all as they were represented to be with these new settlers, and 95 per cent. of them at the present time are quite contented, and will, I believe, make good for themselves and make excellent settlers for the Dominion of Canada. The details of these things will be threshed out in committee, but I want to make it clear that the Dominion of Canada is in sympathy with this project, having taken advantage of it in a measure up to date, and is prepared to discuss any measure that will enable our country to secure as many settlers from the British Isles as we can absorb to their advantage, to yours, and to ours.