

I was speaking about the Paris agency, will be much interested in reading the information contained in those reports.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman has stated that Mr. Fabre is under charge of the High Commissioner, and of the Department of Agriculture in respect of the emigration work in Paris. It seems under these circumstances, we might have expected that the report of the Minister of Agriculture would have contained the report of this officer, but I do not perceive that it does contain any report from Mr. Fabre. The hon. gentleman has started a theory which may be applicable to the proceedings of the Legislature of which he has been more familiar during his political life, but which is certainly novel to this Chamber, namely, that if public information obtained by public officers and for which the public pays is not communicated to the public, it is the fault, not of those who have gathered the information, not of those who are responsible for the official being employed, not of those who are responsible for his seeing that his reports are sent in, but of somebody or other who has not asked for them. We ought not to have had any reports of Immigration Agents because we did not ask for them! The proposition is, with respect to the hon. gentleman, preposterous. I say it is the duty of the Government which asks Parliament to vote this money to produce the reports which are in the archives of the Government, so that we may consider them and thereby be enabled intelligently to act upon them. Now, then, not merely is there no report from Mr. Fabre directly, but there does not appear to have been any communication notified to the public between him and the High Commissioner. The High Commissioner makes report upon the general subject of emigration, which is brought down to the Minister of Agriculture; and he also makes report on continental emigration in which he says:

"Sir, I have much pleasure in sending you the following report respecting my recent visit to Holland, Germany and France, in connection with the important subject of continental emigration."

And he narrates that he left London on the evening of the 20th with Mr. Dyke, the Agent; arriving at Rotterdam he called on the agent of the Allan Line; at Amsterdam he called on the agents of the line of steamers running to New York. He also visited the Amsterdam exhibition. At Frankfort-on-the-Maine he learned some information about Manitoba. At Berlin he received the hearty co-operation of Sir John Walsham, Secretary of the Embassy. Dr. Otto Hahn, Agent of the Department of Agriculture, met him at Basle. Mr. Hanswirth, Mayor of the Canton of Berne, met him at Basle. He also found that the Cunard agents and other steamship agents at Basle booked emigrants to Manitoba; and he adds his conclusions as to the mode of obtaining a fair share of German emigration. But I have not been able, in my cursory perusal of the remarks of the hon. gentleman on the subject of continental emigration, which he says is a report of his visit to Holland, Germany and France, to find any account of his visit to the latter country, or of his operations in that country; nor have I been able to find that Mr. Fabre had ever communicated important public documents at all. I do not understand, therefore, how it is that so much good has been done and we have never heard of it. I do not see why this rose has been suffered to blush unseen up to this late hour of the Parliamentary season. I am quite sure if it was the fact that so much had been done, as the hon. gentleman supposes has been done, we should have had the reports long before this.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am afraid I must plead guilty to an important omission in the Report to which the hon. gentleman has just referred. I certainly did have communication with Mr. Fabre in Paris, and I have no hesitation in saying that, although he has been regarded there

principally as an officer of the Government of Quebec, yet I think this Government were quite warranted in giving him the very small sum contained in the annual appropriation for services rendered to the Dominion. I had an opportunity of seeing that gentleman on more than one occasion, and I found him very warmly devoted to the interests of this country. I found the tables of his office strewn with Canadian literature, and I am aware that it is the constant resort of all Canadians visiting Paris, as the office I occupy in London is the resort of Canadians who visit the British metropolis. There are very few Canadians who go on the continent and visit Paris who do not find their way to Mr. Fabre's office.

Mr. MACKENZIE. I know one who does not.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The hon. gentleman says he knows one who does not. I am quite certain if he had done so, he would have met with a very cordial reception as every Canadian meets with who visits that gentleman's office and asks advice and assistance. I have great pleasure in bearing my testimony not only to the zeal and devotion which Mr. Fabre evinces in the public service of Canada, but I have no hesitation in saying from personal knowledge that that gentleman has succeeded in gaining the confidence and esteem of gentlemen of great influence in Paris and France. I had the pleasure of meeting, at Mr. Fabre's house, gentlemen of the highest position in both branches of the Parliament of France; and it is within my own personal knowledge that Mr. Fabre loses no opportunity of turning to advantage the acquaintances he has been enabled to form and the confidences he has established, to inspire in the minds of men who influence public opinion to as large an extent as any persons in France do influence public opinion, a desire to promote the interests of Canada. I happen to know that in one of the leading organs of public opinion, edited by a distinguished member of the French Senate, Mr. Fabre has again and again had an opportunity of inspiring that journal, through his acquaintance with that Senator, with sentiments and opinions in regard to the trade and commerce and the general interests of the country, of very great value. I did not consider it necessary to take part in this discussion; but after the references made by the hon. member for West Durham, I could not do less than bear my humble testimony, and my very sincere testimony, to the conscientious and zealous efforts which Mr. Fabre is making to promote the interests of this country and the very considerable success which is attending them. The table of his office is covered with Canadian literature which he places in the hands of parties visiting his office, either residing in France, or, as the Secretary of State observed, foreigners who come to this country through France and obtain from Mr. Fabre further information with regard to the Dominion. I believe that this insignificant sum, so far from being thrown away, has been wisely appropriated, and its appropriation has been attended with very beneficial results.

Mr. MACKENZIE. Will the hon. gentleman who has borne testimony to Mr. Fabre's efforts, state whether he has received any report from that gentleman or not?

Mr. CHAPLEAU. I will answer the question as Mr. Fabre's reports are made to my Department.

Mr. MACKENZIE. I am not asking the hon. gentleman; I am asking the Minister of Railways or the supposed High Commissioner, as it is to him that Mr. Fabre's reports will have to be made. I am asking the responsible adviser of the Government; I called him Minister of Railways, for I sometimes mistake one for the other, but I mean the Lord High Commissioner.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. I thank the hon. gentleman for his kindness to me. I was willing to give him information which he did not possess. Mr. Fabre, by an Order