

go, but to the statistics of the French government.

Mr. LEMIEUX. And if my hon. friend (Mr. Armand Lavergne) will look at the French statistics, he will find also that France has colonies as England has. Now, in order to show still more clearly that the French do not emigrate, even to the French colonies, let us consider first the case of Algeria. Algeria is just across the Mediterranean—the French lake as it has been called—at a stone's throw from the southern coast of France, from the great port of Marseilles. It has the same climate, and yields the same products as southern France. It has now been in the possession of France for eighty-five years. French capital has directed its forces for more than half a century to build up this colony for France. And to-day the total French population of Algeria is 295,000, while the total Spanish and Italian population is 300,000. This is the darling colony of France, and we all know what sacrifices France would be ready to make in order to keep the colony of Algeria. But, France has other colonies. She has Madagascar, she has Tunis, she has Tenquin and others. She has closer relations with Louisiana and some other parts of the United States to-day than she has with Canada. And still, the exodus from France to all parts of the world does not exceed six thousand souls a year. It is true as I have said, that in the great ports of Marseilles, Toulon and Havre and Dunkirk, you will find inscribed in the books of the agents of the several navigation companies, the names of thousands and thousands of emigrants. But, they are not French. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Whelpley speaking of France, says that France has a population of about 39,000,000, and this population is practically at a standstill, owing to the abnormally small birth rate. Sir, the people who emigrate are those who live in countries overflowing with population. But is that the case in France? Let me point out first that in France property is more evenly divided than in any other country in the world. There is in Great Britain to-day—I am sorry to say it as a Liberal—a system of feudal tenure, and this may be the cause why my friends from Ireland left the green little isle; in Germany the masses are led by the classes; we know what are the civil and economical troubles suffered by the Russians—but in France the property is evenly divided. There are 10,000,000 families and 8,000,000 land owners. The Frenchman is happy in his own country. Nay, more, he is wealthy, and there are not the civil and political troubles in France that there are in other countries. But this is a question of fact to be determined by those who know best. Frenchmen, I say it again, do not emigrate,

because the property there is evenly divided, and also because the population is practically at a standstill. Last year the population in France increased by about 205,000 souls, whilst in twelve departments or territorial divisions the population decreased by nearly ten or twelve per cent. Do you think that a race whose birth-rate is decreasing will emigrate? Common sense will tell you no. The people will stay in France, and the French government will see that its own population does not emigrate. My hon. friend knows fully well that there is no country in Europe where there are more stringent laws to prevent emigration than in France.

Mr. ARMAND LAVERGNE. What about the North Atlantic Trading Company? Why did it not operate in France?

Mr. LEMIEUX. I will read the laws which have been passed.

Mr. ARMAND LAVERGNE. I am not denying the statement, but I am asking why did not the North Atlantic Trading Company operate in France then?

Mr. LEMIEUX. I say once for all, from my seat in parliament, and before the whole country and not in some obscure little village in the province of Québec, where there is an election, where you can appeal to the French Canadians—and in doing this I have no intention to belittle the French government or nation—my sympathies for France are well known, and I can well afford, as a Canadian and a British subject, to love and revere the old mother country—that this government is doing its level best to bring out French settlers to this country. But in France there is no reciprocity. Just let me read a synopsis of the French laws relating to restriction of emigration:

No one shall undertake to engage or transport emigrants without the authority of the Minister of Agriculture, Commerce and Public Works.

Any infraction to the above law is punishable by fine of from 50 to 5,000 francs. In the case of a second offence during the same year the fine shall be double this amount.

In a circular dated November 10, 1873, the Minister of the Interior calls the attention of the authorities to the decrease in the population of the rural constituencies and attributes this to the constant emigration of young people. He states that there are a certain number of authorized agencies who are employing sub-agents who are distributing literature giving erroneous ideas as to the places where they are asking them to emigrate. The minister recommends to the public officials to oppose themselves to the distribution of literature promoting the cause of emigration, and he states that the authority for the distribution of such literature must be refused in every case.

Another circular dated December 9, 1873, calls attention to the fact that a certain sub-agent of emigration employs an illegitimate process to induce people to emigrate to America. This circular recalls the necessity for all French people to be supplied with a 'pass-