

only about 15 per cent of the total. I remember years and years ago hearing in the other House Sir Charles Tupper describing the possibilities of the Northwest, and when he said that so many acres would be cultivated, and that at so much per acre it would amount to so many bushels, people thought he was talking as a dreamer. However, his predictions have been almost realized now, and they will be in the near future. I really believe you will see this immense plateau in the near future occupied, and occupied largely by a population from the province of Quebec, as the French-Canadians of Quebec seem to be the only ones in this country who are willing to go and wrestle with the stump, clear the land, and develop it; you do not see very much of that in Ontario. If you look along the Canadian Pacific railway you will find that with the opening of that road the French-Canadian went into Ontario and in places like Sudbury, North Bay, the Algomas, Sault Ste. Marie, you will see these places largely populated by the French-Canadian who came along as the road was being built, cleared the land, and established themselves there. It has been a good thing for Ontario, for had it not been for the influx of those 250,000 French-Canadians Ontario would have made a very poor showing in the last census as far as nativity is concerned; Ontario would be away behind that pernicious place called France if it had not been for the help they got from the French-Canadian of northern Ontario.

Several hon. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN—Now, that immense country will be peopled in the near future by a large contingent coming from the province of Quebec. Even to-day in the town of Cochrane the majority of the population is composed of French-Canadians. Men who have had good farms in eastern Quebec left those farms with some money, brought their sons, and managed to open the country, clear the land, and settle their sons on that land. The Government gives the land free, and does not exact one dollar for 100 acres of land—and that is the very best land. The land up there is good not only in Quebec but also in Ontario. From New Liskeard to Cochrane, a distance of some 150 miles, has been settled, as we know, and the wheat grown at New Liskeard took the first prize at the Exhibition at Glasgow, Scotland—beating the Manitoba wheat. I may tell the hon. gentleman from Portage la Prairie (Hon. Mr. Watson), that on the east side of Lake Timiskaming land

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN.

is good, and across the Quinze River, in Quebec, all the land is perfectly good for settlement. The further north you go and the smaller the timber is, the easier is the clearing; and when you get to this magnificent railway the Transcontinental—when that railway is in operation—you will see a population there which will be very considerable indeed in the near future. I believe it is the duty of this Government as soon as they possibly can to organize a service clean through and open that road. Portions of the road are being operated—in eastern Quebec, from Quebec towards Moncton; from Cochrane to Winnipeg west; from Cochrane east to Amos, and the only part that is not operated is the 427 miles from Amos to Quebec. If that part was in operation there would be a through service. No one can expect a railroad running through a country of primeval forest to pay its way the first year, but a beginning must be made, there have to be sacrifices at first. It is unavoidable that sacrifices have to be made some time or other. At this very moment that road has been used to take up the aliens—Austrians and Germans—who are kept in the concentration camps near Amos and are being used to clear the land, and it is safe to say they cannot escape because they would have to pass the railway and go back towards Ontario; it is an excellent place for them to be. Now, if there had been any facilities those aliens would have cut a lot of timber this year, but there were no facilities for transportation whatever, and I do not know what the Government is occupying these people at just now. I am afraid their work is going to be lost. In conclusion I would invite every hon. member of this House, as soon as there are facilities, to go over that territory for themselves, and they will see that the sun does not shine on a nicer, better or more fertile piece of land than that along the Transcontinental and the clay belt of Ontario and Quebec.

Several hon. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. BOLDUC—When the hon. gentleman from Mille Iles gave notice of the motion now before us I thought that in proposing it he would give us more explanation than he has given. I thought he would be in a position to give us evidence that the operation of the road from Amos down to Quebec would have been a complete necessity since December last, for I understand that the operation of the road was stopped only since last December. At the same time, if the hon. gentleman had