

adopt a different policy this year, one more in conformity with the public interest. I do not think that in this House, it was a subject of discussion. It was a subject of discussion in the Commons.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Oh!

Hon. Mr. MILLS—At all events not in my presence. Let me say further that the government had not granted favours. We advertised for tenders. Our advertisements were circulated in every part of the country. We accepted the highest tender, and when hon. gentlemen compare those prices and the names of the firms which sold in different parts of the country, it will be found that we obtained a fair price. We do not go into the manufacture of this twine for the purpose of underselling other manufactures. We do not go into the manufacture for the purpose of ruining or bankrupting those who are engaged in similar pursuits. We engage in the business for the purpose of giving employment to the convicts we find in our penitentiaries, and to enable us to sustain them there with as little burden to the public as possible. We seek to make the convict population, as far as possible, self-sustaining, and when we manufacture only about one-seventh of the binder-twine that is consumed in Canada, it is easy to see that we could not undertake to sell at extremely low or unprofitable rates, without doing very serious injury to the manufacturers of the other six-sevenths of the twine consumed by the farming population. My hon. friend said he did not know what was meant by that paragraph in the speech relating to interest on judgments. Let me say that the rate of interest has fallen very greatly within the last ten or fifteen years. Six per cent is a very high rate now. It is beyond the market value of money, and it is not unreasonable to fix on judgments obtained in courts of justice a somewhat more moderate rate than was a fair rate some years ago. Further than that, the Crown at the present time, except in certain special cases, is not called upon to pay interest upon its judgments, and there are in my opinion, good reasons for putting judgments obtained against the Crown in this regard upon the same footing as judgments obtained against private parties. My

hon. friend opposite has spoken about pauper immigration, I may say to the hon. gentleman that I do not know of any pauper immigration. I do not know of any immigration into this country that is a burden upon the great mass of the people of Canada. We have not invited people to come into Canada with a view of making them a charge upon the industry and property of other portions of the community. What people have been invited to come here for is to take possession of the waste lands, the unoccupied territories of the country, which are out of all proportion greater than the territories that are occupied, in order that they may establish for themselves comfortable homes, in order that they may become useful citizens, and may contribute to the commerce and to the revenue of the country. That object is being accomplished. My hon. friend, in using the words 'pauper immigration,' has used two words that will wound a great many thousand people settled in Canada. During the past year we have had an immigration into Manitoba and the North-west Territories alone of about 50,000 people. Those people are not paupers. They may have had but little wealth, but they are industrious. I do not know how the farming population of the North-west would have succeeded in properly caring for their harvests without their aid. They have been contributors to the construction of the railways that are at present in process of being built. They are found to be industrious people, ready to work, and they obtain by their work in the harvest season among the farmers and on the railways the means of supporting their families during the winter season without charge upon any portion of the population. They will be able to begin the next year under favourable circumstances. They are anxious to become Canadians. They have no literature, no devotion to a nationality attaching them elsewhere. They have no disposition to perpetuate the story or history of the country of their origin. Their inclination is to become Canadians as soon as possible. I observed that many of their children, some of whom have not been six months in the country, were able to speak the English language sufficiently well to make themselves intelligible. Can any one doubt that they will, in a remarkably short time, become Canadians,