

sections would be open for settlement on the same basis, but instead of having to pay anything for his capital that he should be entitled to hold it at the rate of 3 per cent interest with such obligations as may be conducive to settlement. Three per cent upon 160 acres at \$5 an acre would be an annual charge of \$23 a year instead of paying a homestead fee, the new settler would pay the first year's interest on the price of his holding upon the odd-numbered or government section. The man who went in as a pioneer to develop the country would have his obligations as a pioneer. The man who follows him when a country is developed and there is a railway to take away his produce, has a decided advantage when he can occupy lands alongside of the pioneer settler and pay only the charge of \$23 a year. Now, this is only an outline of what I have brought before this honourable House in regard to this matter. There might be a difficulty in the minds of some people who do not reside in that country about guaranteeing bonds of that kind, but I say, hon. gentlemen, if a railway constructed in that western country on that economical basis, a first mortgage upon the railway itself with an asset of 6,400 acres per mile at the back of it cannot be considered a safeguard to the treasury, then I think the country cannot be viewed with much confidence by the people of Canada generally. From my experience I can say that it is a fine country. It is capable of great production, and it is to-day producing wealth probably more rapidly than any other part of the world; that the larger share of that wealth does not remain with the people who are producing it is quite evident, because of the high taxes they have to pay and in consequence of the freight rates, is a matter of perfect knowledge to the people who reside there, and any improvement or amelioration of that condition will produce a far greater and more beneficial result on the development and population of that country than any stimulus that may be given by large subsidies for emigration purposes, or in any other shape or form. The best emigration agent is well known to be the contented settler, and the contented settler is the man who is paying his way as he goes. Under present conditions it is impossible for the settlers, as a general rule, to pay their way in that country in consequence of the low prices they receive for their produce, and the

high price they have to pay for everything they require. The country has maintained itself so far, as I have said before, and produced a great deal of wealth, but while that has been done, *pari passu* with the progress of that development has been a great development in the borrowing of the people. I believe I am quite within the mark when I say that the loans through loan companies on real estate in that western country, have reached as high as \$30,000,000, on that \$30,000,000 interest has to be provided, and that is loaned out at the rate of eight per cent to-day, and it becomes a yearly tax on the wealth that is produced there which, in addition to the other taxes, produces an effect which we all deplore—that is, that the country does not increase in population, that it does not enjoy that prosperity that we all think it should, in consequence of the bounties of providence that have been showered upon it so far as the richness of soil and the facilities that are offered for the immediate development of the country, for the farmer, in the absence of any forest growth or anything of that kind. I have already referred to what I consider to be one very important subject of interest in our western country, that is the question of immigration. The question of taxation through protection is one that also I have already dwelt upon in this honourable House and when I say that we produce wealth in that country I am quite within the mark when I say—though it might open the eyes of a great many people who do not give a thought to it—that last year we produced 30,000,000 bushels of wheat, an addition to the wealth of the country of \$20,000,000. Last year was an exceptionally good year—that is to say the climatic condition: sun and rain came in their due season and the crop was large. That \$20,000,000 is the value of the wheat at a point of export on the Canadian seaboard, and when you come to think that \$20,000,000 is added to the wealth of the country by a few industrious hard working settlers out in that western country, you can see what the possibilities of the country are in adding wealth to Canada through its intelligent and proper development by wise laws and just laws. At the present moment we consider, in the western country, that the protective system is not just, that it is taxing the many for the benefit of the few. I might quote an instance that I presented to the people during the last election