

6,000 miles and personally visited nearly 200 of the British families on their farms. He says:

We have no hesitation in saying that the British family settlement scheme has thus far proved a conspicuous success, and promises to become the most successful effort in colonization undertaken by any government in modern times. . . . In this report we described the origin and functions of the Soldier Settlement Board, now the land settlement branch of the Department of Immigration and Colonization at Ottawa, and have endeavoured to show how this admirable organization handled the settlement of Canadian soldiers and is now handling the settlement of British families.

Then I read from an article by Lady Clarendon, as follows:

We have returned home with the greatest admiration for the personnel of the land settlement board, their unflinching kindness to settlers, their broad views, their patience and patriotism. If Canada, and above all a government department, can produce men such as these, then all is very well with our fellow countrymen who are giving themselves to Canada.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): I offered a few criticisms of the minister's department. In all fairness to him may I offer two or three suggestions? He has said, and quite properly, that the door is wide open for immigrants from the British Isles. We want them here. Why do we not get them? The reason certainly is not lack of surplus population in the old country. We do not get them in large numbers because our system is haphazard. For instance, there is no assurance that immigrants will get work on their arrival here. I am glad to find that the provinces are showing an increasing disposition to coöperate with the federal department, and I am going to offer a suggestion that I think can be adopted at no cost. Take a county in Ontario with, say, sixteen municipalities, each of them represented by a reeve and council; the reeve of each township represents his municipality in the county council. Now, I suggest that we make use of all this municipal machinery to secure information of how many farmers want boys or married men on their farms; this information could be conveyed to the county council through the Reeves of the various townships; the county council in turn would communicate the information to the provincial authorities, who in turn would communicate with the Department of Immigration. In that way you would have complete coöperation and the latest available information of the requirements of every municipality in regard to farm help.

Suppose you get an inquiry from an immigrant; he wants to go to Ontario. You

ask him where in Ontario; he answers, Hamilton. You ask him why he wants to go to Hamilton; he tells you that he has a cousin or a brother there. Very well, that is a good idea, let him go there. This plan has been put in operation in dealing with boy immigrants and has proved to be an absolute success. Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Ontario, through their respective governments, have issued booklets giving information of the number of vacant farms, their location and price. That is valuable data to start with, and surely you can systematize the work in coöperation with the municipalities throughout the Dominion in placing immigrants in the rural districts.

Mr. SPENCER: I have a good deal of sympathy with the views expressed by the hon. member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr. Edwards). He covered a few of the points that I intended to take up. I would ask the minister: Why should not Canadians in the central and eastern provinces who want to go to western Canada to take up what the Immigration department seems to put so much stress on, agriculture, have the advantage of the same low passenger rates as are given to immigrants?

Mr. FORKE: That is a matter for the railway companies. Besides, every province would strongly object to the department encouraging its people to move to a sister province.

Mr. SPENCER: I have heard a good deal of criticism because the man in eastern Canada is not put on a parity with the man from outside. A tremendous effort is being made to bring in people who are supposed to go on the land. I notice by the report that 50,000 of the immigrants that came in last year did not take up farming; which proves that the policy is a failure as we have always claimed it would be. I think it is a mistake to try to force people to go into any particular calling. Another point I would bring to the attention of the minister has to do with the railways. It is to the interest of the railway companies to bring in anybody from anywhere who will turn the sod and grow produce, and thus increase freight traffic, for naturally the railways are interested only in so far as they can increase their traffic. I know that people who have been brought into western Canada by the railways have taken up agriculture in certain districts, and have had great difficulty in making both ends meet. Therefore I think the department should keep in pretty close touch with the railways with regard to how many immigrants are being brought out and