

of the provinces had to be abandoned, and we found that of the large sums expended from Dominion resources, almost the whole of it, in fact I think I would be justified in saying the whole of it, was extended for the benefit of the new territories in the North-West. When it was circulated by rumour and through the press that an effort was about being made through the High Commissioner and under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture, backed by the resources of the Dominion, to do something to promote immigration into the Maritime Provinces, there was a feeling of satisfaction throughout those provinces which was very general and gratifying. It was hoped that their great resources would be made known in the Old World, and that some of the crumbs from the great Dominion table might be allowed to fall within reach of the people of the Maritime Provinces so far as immigration is concerned. I consider the Government in suppressing this report have only carried out the policy they have inaugurated almost from the commencement of this session. Last session we might have styled the Government a white-washing Government, but they did condescend to allow certain investigations, but by their majority they neutralized the effects of the white-washing reports respecting those who had been guilty of practices unbecoming members of Parliament, or Ministers of the Crown. But this session I think they have concluded to adopt an opposite policy: instead of waiting for reports of committees or commissions or of any body to whom matters of importance were referred, they concluded it was advisable to suppress investigations and to suppress reports, whenever those investigations or reports were likely to strike a blow at the vanity or self-sufficiency of the advocates of the Government policy in regard to their administration of public affairs. The comedy of errors in regard to the visit of the English farm delegates to the Maritime Provinces began at the very outset; it began in England before word was given out in the provinces that anything of this kind was contemplated. I think the Government would have done themselves, the people and the resources of the Maritime Provinces justice if notice had more publicly been given of the proposed visit of the delegates to those provinces, had this Parliament been informed by some occupant of the Treasury benches that a visit of this kind was contemplated, and had the attention of the Maritime Provinces been called to the proposed visit of the delegates, in order that by communicating with the Local Government and their friends in the Lower Provinces they might have put forth greater efforts in order to make the visit a great and shining success. In order to contrast this policy or lack of policy on the part of the Government with the enterprise of private individuals and transportation companies, I would refer to the visit of the New England Press Association to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick during last summer. The opening of the missing link between Annapolis and Digby and the opening of the summer season of travel were taken advantage of by the transportation companies and the steamboat companies, and others interested in the prosperity of the province, to invite the New England Press Association to visit those provinces. The progress of some twenty or thirty representatives of the Press Association to Nova Scotia was more like a Royal pro-

gress than a visit by travellers who desired to investigate the resources of the province. In almost every town and village they were met by leading citizens and banquetted and taken to see beautiful scenery, and made acquainted, as far as it was within the power of all concerned, with the resources of the province, and above all were made to feel that Nova Scotia was fair to look upon and was a fine gem in the crown of this Dominion. Every effort was made to send this information abroad and have it published in the press controlled by those journalists. The Dominion Government expend large sums of money for purposes of very much the same character, but of even more importance; but in regard to the visit of the farmers' delegates they kept their plans in the dark, and the first intimation the people obtained was a telegram from the High Commissioner in London to the Premier of Nova Scotia, announcing that the delegates had been selected and were on the way to Nova Scotia and the Maritime Provinces in order to study the resources and report upon them. The second mistake was made just here: and I am not disposed, after the explanation given by the Minister of Marine the other night, to press unduly against the Administration the charge that they deliberately and with malice aforethought selected an improper instrument through whom to introduce those delegates to Nova Scotia. But there was a lack of judgment, and lack of tact displayed by men acquainted with political matters, which should have been avoided. Instead of continuing the wise and prudent policy of the High Commissioner, who is a man of experience, at all events, in all these matters and acquainted with the disposition of the people of Nova Scotia, instead of following out his advice and placing the delegates in the hands of the Government of the province, the Dominion Government appointed the leader of the Opposition in Nova Scotia for the task, and sent down an agent of the department to take charge of those delegates and show them such parts of the province as they might select. When the unfortunate contretemps was made known, the Provincial Government indignantly withdrew from all participation in the visit of the delegates. They were placed—I say nothing in regard to the agent of the Agriculture Department—in the hands of prominent men of the local Opposition and they were only allowed to see, hear and know such things as in the opinion of those men the delegates should see, hear and know. If I have studied this matter correctly, there were many portions of the province which the delegates did not visit. The visit was a failure as regards arousing the interest and enthusiasm of the people. I am convinced that had the Local Government been encouraged in the steps they were about to take to receive those delegates and during their visit to show them all the resources of the province, there would have been such a display of enthusiasm and interest as would have charmed those delegates, and would have led them to make more favourable reports in regard to the people, the social allurements of the province, and its agricultural and other resources, than can possibly characterize the present report. The same rumour came from other provinces, that the visits of these delegates was not made as important and interesting as it might have been. The next error on the part of the Government was to keep these delegates