

fectly well satisfied myself that a large amount of valuable immigration work could be done, work which would be of the most valuable character, in the older provinces of the Dominion if the provincial governments would form organizations for assisting it and promoting it. The general work of the Department of the Interior could not, without very great expense, be developed in such a way as to enable that particular class of work to be handled. It would be most difficult to carry it out effectually, because difficulties would arise in the different provinces in regard to the work that is being done, and in addition to that our officers would lack that direct local knowledge, that contact with the people which is necessary to make that kind of work a success. What I mean is this: If the different provincial governments would form organizations for the purpose of placing well-to-do settlers upon improved farms I am satisfied that with the efforts of the Department of the Interior considerable numbers of these well-to-do settlers could be placed in communication with such provincial organizations, but it is quite out of the question with our organization to endeavour to handle these people and place them upon improved farms in the various provinces. It would be quite impossible for us to do it, because it could not be successfully done unless through the provincial governments. In so far as I have been asked to do so I have very willingly assisted in movements of that kind, but they have not amounted to very much as yet, because I may say that the provincial governments have not taken it up with any great degree of activity.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Is the hon. Minister of the Interior now referring to the settlement of immigrants on farms in the older provinces?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Yes. I am satisfied that if the provincial governments would furnish the organization for the purpose of taking hold of these people, who are in many cases very valuable and well-to-do people and who would desire to settle upon improved farms in the older provinces, we could turn them over to them. The only provincial organization which has amounted to anything as far as I know is that of New Brunswick. The agent of New Brunswick in the city of London is a very active gentleman and has done a great deal of work in that direction, and I believe his work has been of a very successful character. We have in his case, as in other cases, furnished literature and given such assistance as it has been possible to give, but until the provincial governments take hold of the matter and assume the duty of locating these people and looking after them when they get here, I do not think the work will assume very large dimensions.

The hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) and one or two other members of the committee have intimated that there ought to be some distinct statement as to what the policy of the government is going to be in future in connection with the subject of immigration, and I quite agree that the committee are entitled to a complete, distinct and emphatic statement upon that subject. I should find it difficult, I think, to state a policy that would satisfy all the members of the committee, because, as I said last night, hardly two members of the committee agree in their views as to what the policy of the department ought to be. We shall therefore have to pursue a policy which we believe will commend itself to the majority of the members of this House. My hon. friend from Toronto (Mr. Brock) expressed the idea that the government ought to have a policy and know what it is. I can satisfy my hon. friend on that point so far as the policy of immigration is concerned, because I am perfectly clear in my opinion as to that policy, and so long as I am at the head of the department I will carry it out.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I recognize the necessity for making the medical inspection as thorough and as careful as possible. I find no fault with any hon. member calling my attention to any alleged defects in the system of inspection. It is quite impossible that I or my deputy minister can do the inspection ourselves. All we can do is to provide for an effective system of inspection, and in view of the increased number of immigrants we appointed a permanent medical inspector of the department in the person of Dr. Ellis, of St. John, whose business it is to see that a complete medical inspection shall be made of all immigrants landing at Canadian seaports.

Mr. CLARKE. When was he appointed?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. He entered upon his duties in the month of December last. The instructions to Dr. Ellis are full and explicit and if he is not performing his duty I shall be glad to have my attention called to that fact, in order that the medical inspection may be perfected in every possible way. If my friends opposite are of opinion that the inspection is not as thorough as it should be, I will do the best I can to have a complete examination of the whole matter made. Therefore, there is no difference of opinion on that point.

Mr. SPROULE. There is this difference of opinion, that we have been pressing this upon the attention of the minister for two or three years, and it is only within seven months that he has appointed an inspector.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Then my hon. friend ought congratulate me