

every month, otherwise their engagement comes to an end—would it not be advisable for the Federal Government in some way or other to meet those people on their own ground?

MR. INGRAM.—Last fall, during the London exhibition, there was an agent there from the States with circulars, which he was distributing on the show ground.

MR. MCGREGOR.—I think we ought to try, now that Mr. Burgess has got charge of the department, to induce Mr. Burgess to come to this Committee at our next meeting, which will be some time early in the winter, with some policy whereby we can go to the House, and have it in such a form that we can say to the House that we really are in earnest in filling up that country. There is no people on earth with the heritage that we have. We have the finest land, and the farmer goes there under advantages that he can get in no other country on earth to-day. He has the right climate and the very best soil, with hay already grown, where a farmer who gets a yoke of oxen can get 80 acres ready for the next year's crop, and with a heritage like that, and the quantity we have, why should we not fill it up? Why should we not be in earnest in filling up that country? Every dollar we expend in filling up the older provinces with immigrants is somewhat lost. Let our aim be to fill up the North-west, every part that can be filled, and we will get more than three or four fold from it, and that quickly, too. I would not be particular about the old people; bring them from any country, but it is the young people who will take their places in that country and fill it and make their mark. In looking over the statistics of Kansas, Nebraska and Texas, and those other new countries, it is amazing to see the amount of people put in there yearly; and here we are standing quietly and allowing our lands to go. I feel that we ought to have a special committee to confer with the parties in charge of immigration, and that we ought to have the greatest ability in that department that the Government have. If we are in earnest we can fill up that country.

MR. DAVIN.—I am very glad to hear Mr. McGregor speak in the way he has done. I think that this Committee ought, now that there has been a change in the management of the department to a department characterized by energy in its own business, to do what within us lies in the direction pointed out by Mr. McGregor. If we can fix on a Committee, as he states, to confer with the Department of the Interior, it might be a good thing. We might be able to make some suggestions. What we want, Mr. Chairman, is some large scheme that will crowd that country. Mr. McGregor has taken a statesmanlike view of the matter. The department that deals with immigration is the most important department in the country. What is the good of a Finance Minister if you have a country in a stagnant condition? Crowd the country with immigrants and you will give him the material upon which his financial friends can work pretty quick. What we have always wanted is something big. Now that the change has been made Mr. Burgess will have a great deal to do with it. He has had a good deal to do in shaping the policy of his own department and he will have a good deal to do with shaping this policy. It is quite clear Mr. Burgess is not in a position to give us the information now. He says he has as yet no plan well formed. I think the steps hitherto taken are good steps. The changes made are wise changes, but we want some big scheme. It is ridiculous that immigrants should go into the United States when we have a far more attractive country in Manitoba and the North-west.

MR. ROOME.—I approve of a great deal that has been said by the last two speakers, but not as a whole. I think the policy of reducing the expenditure is a move in the right direction. Going in with a gigantic scheme to settle the North-west in a few years at the expense of the older provinces is not what this Committee or Parliament wants. The United States Government has not for years given a dollar towards settling up those new States. It has been done by the people themselves, by advertising and by the railway companies. We cannot go to the expense of filling up that country at the expense of the older provinces. The farmers of the older provinces were paying for sending farmers to the North-west to compete with them. I say we should start carefully. I believe the time has come when we should