

partment and, further, that we should bring here the men charged with this work overseas. I am sure they would come, at their own expense if necessary, to give us the benefit of their experience in other lands. I say again that this committee and this house should hear the story in its entirety, in order that the people may have their unrest and their suspicion with respect to the conduct of this department removed. I think it highly important that this should be done, and I do ask my friend in all seriousness whether he does not think that either the standing committee on agriculture and colonization, or a special committee appointed by the house, should deal with this question.

Within the last three hours I had a cable from a friend of mine in London who is tremendously interested in this question, saying that the regulations now in existence are preventing people from coming to Canada. He said also that the new medical regulations were absurd, to give his exact words. I am not going to pass judgment upon them myself; I was very careful to tell the house that this was a cable from a friend vitally interested in these matters, not in any sense from a political point of view at all. Everywhere men and women are interested in this question; I recently had a letter from London giving me the very figures which I quoted with respect to British and continental immigration. I checked them up at the Bureau of Statistics and found them correct in every detail.

These are the conditions under which this department is being administered. It is a crying shame that this country is not getting additional settlers. We have here the greatest area of vacant land in the world, crying for settlers; we have productive lands and we offer great opportunities, and we must do something to deal with this problem.

There are two problems to be dealt with at the same time; one is to conserve the present population, a big problem in itself, and the other is to secure additional settlers. On the one hand we have to maintain the population we have, and on the other we must induce additional settlers to come here. These two problems are allied and connected; the one is the complement of the other, and unless the government takes such measures as will secure the safety and employment of those men who come to our country in the first instance, and thus conserve our present population, they certainly will not succeed in meeting the second problem, which is the movement of people to this country. We do not want to bring people here merely for the purpose of sending them on to other countries.

That is not what we desire to do, and I do suggest in all good part to the right hon. Prime Minister, that some effort be made to deal with the matter along the lines I have mentioned. Then when intelligent men, seized with the whole circumstances and with a high sense of their responsibilities and obligations, make recommendations of a practical character, we may hope to have them carried out. I do know this, sir, that from time to time articles appear in the public press suggesting that we should deal with these matters entirely outside of government; that we should set up a great body which would deal with them as a commission. That does not appeal very strongly to a great many of the Canadian people, but the fact remains that the suggestion has been made from time to time, and it should be considered by the committee dealing with this matter. Other suggestions have also been made; I suppose most of the members of this house consider from time to time the reports coming from overseas with respect to migration and the vast sums of money which have been made available to prospective settlers. Large sums, relatively, have been allotted for the purpose of sending people to this country and to other parts of the British Empire; settlers are going to Australia and they are coming here, but the unfortunate fact is that the figures indicate that as far as we are concerned this has been almost a total failure, and I do think the time has come when some effort should be made in the way I have suggested.

The only other domestic matter on which I desire to speak is the customs report. In that respect I am only going to say this, that there could have been no more ample vindication of the expression of opinion by the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Stevens). Nothing more clearly indicated the conditions under which the revenues of this country were being lost to the exchequer than that report, and nothing more amply indicated the wrongs which were being committed under political protection and under the protection of the law in various parts of Canada. I suppose my friend the Minister of Railways (Mr. Dunning) realizes what was said by counsel for the commission at Regina when dealing with the Bronfman cases; I suppose other gentlemen have realized what occurred with respect to prosecutions in the province of Quebec, and in all sincerity I say to my friend the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Euler), that when this report is considered by this house, as it will be when the legislation which is to be introduced following that report, as promised in the speech