

an ordinary or limited character, there can scarcely be an opening for any diplomatic collision.

The second difficulty that occurs to me is suggested by the experience in Canada of the effect of locking up large pieces of territory in the hands of private individuals for any considerable length of time. It has been found that land Companies have reserved their lands for so long a period as sometimes to interfere with the proper development of the district, and it might be said, how long is the Swiss Government to be allowed to hold this land to the exclusion of other settlers? This objection also can be met by the conditions upon which the arrangement is made. The Government have already in the case of the Icelanders shut off a piece of territory to be devoted exclusively to Icelandic settlements. There is therefore a precedent for creating a small Swiss settlement. They can prescribe the time within which the experiment is to be tried, and if it were to be found that the Swiss Government was not carrying out with sufficient energy the settlement of the land, the arrangement should terminate at some period to be fixed by the conditions. I presume there is no reason why, supposing the period to extend over ten years, it should not be laid down that within that time the Swiss Government must have parted with the whole of the lands, or that whatever remained should fall into the hands of the Canadian Government, with all the advantages of its enhanced value. It will be seen that the Swiss Government would have every reason, supposing that a portion of the Concession had been filled up, to go on filling up the rest, which would be made more valuable by the existing settlers.

The advantages of the scheme have already been partly indicated. There is the benefit of the *imprimatur* of the Swiss Government, of its guarantee of the correctness of the title and of the nature of the soil. There would be the *eclat* of a national colony. Were it to succeed, there would be the gradual introduction of Swiss capital and manufactures, and of exciting such a discussion in Switzerland about Canada, her resources, her Government, &c , &c., as could in no other way be secured. The effect of all these things upon adjacent States could not be over-estimated. Other peoples would begin to desire to make similar arrangements, or, at all events, to follow in the wake of the colony established under such circumstances. The discussion would take place over the whole of Europe. The question would be a question of more than merely national interest;