

between us and the United States. It is a country, Sir, which, as we become more intimately acquainted with its resources rises in our estimation. Its value is much greater than was supposed some years ago. As to the question of what population that country will support, I presume, from recent investigations, that we are justified in supposing the North-West will maintain a population of 25,000,000. If that is the case, Mr. Speaker, the bearing of the management of that territory upon the question of our national development, upon the question of the ultimate power and position this country will obtain, is one of very great importance as compared with other public questions of the day. It overshadows in importance the question whether we have, by our Trade Policy, succeeded in adding a few thousand operatives to our population, whether we have added a few cotton mills to our industries, or whether our people pay 3, 5 or 10 per cent. more taxes than they did upon the various wares they buy. Of this country we may well say with the poet, Whittier:

"The rudiments of empire here are plastic yet and warm  
And the fragments of a mighty State are rounding into form."

#### BEST MODE OF DEVELOPMENT.

Well, Sir, the development of this country must be brought about, not by speculative movements, not by speculations in corner lots, or in town sites or in land even, but it must be brought about by the labors of the actual tiller of the soil. The country lying in its present state, a wilderness, is not an element of strength, not a source of power to Canada, and it can only become an element of strength, a source of power, when its soil is brought under cultivation, and that can only be done by the labor of the husbandman. Consequently, I hold that the interests of the settler, of the class that are to till the soil of the North-West, should be, in the estimation of the Government, paramount in importance to all other interests in treating this matter. The speculator will take care of himself. It is not necessary that the Government should look after the interests of the speculator or pay very great regard to his interests, but it is necessary to look after the interests of the settler. The operation of the speculator in many cases is not good for the country. At the present moment, I believe the speculative movement in the North-West is a source of danger, and at the best, Sir, the profits of the speculator in lands causes a loss to the yeoman. If the speculator invests in lands and sells at an advance to the settler, whatever the speculator may gain, that class who should be the first in the consideration of the