

*Filed and Printed by order of Committee on application of Mr. Boulanger, M.P.  
(Translation from French)*

To the Honourable the Minister of Justice,  
Honourable Members of the Cabinet.

It is the wish of more than a quarter of a million electors that the members of this delegation are here to acquaint you with.

You are not without knowing, Sir, that there exists in Canada quite a marked movement of exodus to the American and Canadian cities. Statistics lately gathered on this subject show this clearly.

It is undeniable that among the causes of this exodus, is the impossibility for a great number of heads of families to settle their sons. Therefore these native sons of Canada leave for foreign lands or large cities under disadvantages, both to themselves and the country as a whole.

On the other hand, within the last few years, great efforts have been made to populate Canada through immigration. With that aim in view the Government has greatly increased the advantages in favour of immigrants, especially British immigrants. Reduced transportation rates, assistance in the way of loans and in every possible manner, nothing has been spared to make our country as hospitable as possible to the new comers, brought to our shores so as to develop the natural wealth of our Country.

While these immigrants enjoyed these numerous advantages, the Canadian settler was left to his own resources. Too high transportation rates, lack of any assistance, kept him away from this source of wealth, in which he would like to share. It is therefore not astonishing that he has too often taken the road to the United States or has sought to better himself in towns.

As long as the public was not apprised of the existing situation, the people submitted without too much complaining of conditions they thought normal, to-day, however, things have changed.

In the course of the three weeks these signatures that we are submitting to you were gathered, we received a great number of letters expressing real indignation. This indignation over the inferior treatment meted out to the Canadian settler, did not come from individuals here and there, but from people high up and with influence speaking on behalf of large groups. We deem it our duty, Sir, we missionaries of colonization and representatives of national societies, to acquaint you of the present situation.

If we include the number of parishes which have answered our appeal by sending a certain number of signatures gathered, notwithstanding the poor condition of roads which hampered a great number of them, if on the other hand we take into account that women electors, with a few exceptions, were not asked to sign this petition, if we further add the large number of parishes which requested a further delay so as to get everybody to sign, we are in a position to state that the 125,000 signatures which are making the present request that has been submitted for your consideration, represent the wish of more than a quarter of a million electors. Many more thousands of signatures that have been delayed will reach us, we shall deem it a duty to forward to you, Sir, the expression of their wish.

In this petition, signed by representatives of all classes, from the province of Quebec and centres where the French language is spoken in the province of Ontario, the West and the Maritime provinces, in this petition where are mingled the names of leaders, pastors, names of the most honourable and venerable citizens, together with those of workmen and farmers, what is requested?