

assisting our distinguished visitors to move through Canada free of charge, so that both themselves and their families will be able to travel gratuitously over our three great lines of railway. My hon. friend from Cardwell (Mr. White), who is better informed with regard to this matter than any one else, as being Chairman of the Montreal Citizens Committee, will be able to give full information on all these points.

Mr. BLAKE. Of course the hon. member for Cardwell is not the Minister in charge of this vote, and although he may make the explanations, I am afraid we shall have to hold the Government responsible for the use of the money. It will be understood that the Government is speaking through his mouth—which is anticipating events a little, perhaps.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). I may say that the proposal is that \$20,000 of the \$25,000 are to be appropriated by the Committee of the Association in England for assisted passages. Of these assisted passages fifty will be absolutely free—those of the officers of the Association; and the balance of the money, some \$14,000, will be appropriated as assistance to other members of the Association who may come to this country. In order to avoid any abuse of these assisted passages, the Council of the Association in England have adopted the principle that no one will receive assisted passages unless he was a member of the Association at the Southampton meeting, that is the meeting that preceded that at Southport, at which it was decided to come to Canada, by that means excluding persons who may have joined the Association at the Southport meeting merely with a view of getting cheap passages to Canada; so that every protection has been afforded by the Council of the Association in relation to that matter. I believe the Minister of Railways has already explained what has been done with reference to passages on this side. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company have agreed that every person who comes here as a member of the Association, himself and his family, shall have free passages over their line, during the whole time they are in Canada. In addition to that, there is to be a special excursion to the end of the line at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. The excursions, which are conducted at meetings of the Association in England, are always limited in numbers. At the Southport meeting, there were several excursions, and they were all limited, some to 200, others 300, the persons desiring to take part in them sending in their names, and if a larger number applied than could be accommodated, the Council selected the persons. The meeting of the Association will take place in Montreal on 27th August, and continue for one week. On the morning of the 4th September a special excursion of 150 persons will leave Montreal bound for the Rocky Mountains, going part of the way by water, the excursionists returning, if desired, by the American lines. These excursionists are to have the trip free in all respects, except as to their meals, and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company have agreed with the Montreal Committee that they will make arrangements to furnish meals on the route at 50 cents or two shillings per meal. So it is estimated that six shillings a day will be all that is absolutely necessary to be paid by the excursionists on that trip. The time occupied will be probably two weeks, and the general impression is that very great advantage will be derived from the fact that 150 distinguished persons, occupying prominent positions in England, will have an opportunity of visiting in that way the North-West. \$5,000 in addition to the \$20,000 is to be devoted to the necessary expenses connected with the actual meeting itself. The citizens of Montreal have undertaken to provide all the hospitalities connected with the visit to Montreal itself, without touching one dollar of the amount voted by this Parliament; they ask no assistance from Parliament to enable them to do what Montreal citizens, as well

as the citizens of all Canadian centres, are always ready to do on such occasions,—perform the duties of hospitality to the visitors who may be present at that meeting. In the meantime, much correspondence is going on; a permanent Secretary has been appointed; rooms have been taken and a good deal of work is to be done, and \$5,000 is intended to be applied in payment of expenses of that kind. I may say, in regard to this matter, that it is very important if possible that the people of other cities as well as those of Montreal should be thoroughly enlisted in the gathering that is to take place. We have undertaken in Montreal that the Association shall lose nothing by coming to Canada. At the meetings in Great Britain the Association has members, associate members, and life members, and out of the fees paid by the various classes of members they are able to pay for the publishing of their proceedings, their secretaries and other expenses connected with the meetings. The largest number of members at any meeting in Great Britain was 3,300 or 3,400, and it is proposed that in Canada we shall secure an equal membership, so that, as I have said, the Association shall lose nothing by its visit here. It is not intended by the Montreal Committee that any part of this money voted by Parliament should go to that object—that is a matter of an entirely voluntary nature, resting with the people of the Dominion. A guarantee fund is now being established in Montreal, which will ensure the Association against any loss of funds from their Canadian visit; but it is most desirable that in all Canadian cities, Committees should be formed and members of the Association secured; so that we will be able not simply to have a Montreal meeting, or a meeting of Montreal people, but a gathering of the leading people of all parts of Canada. In addition to the excursion to which I have just referred, other excursions have been proposed—one to Ottawa, another to Quebec, another covering a day to the neighbourhood of Belle Isle Mountain, which is a district of great geological interest, as well as some others, and in that way it is hoped the members of the association will find in this country abundant sources of interest and that the result of the trip will be of great advantage to them in all respects. I think that Canada will derive great advantage from the presence of so many distinguished people in this country, the latest information from England being that at least 700 or 800 will come here as members of the Association.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman has told us of excursions to distant points, in which it is proposed to almost annihilate space. Success in obtaining a very large gathering in Montreal of persons from other parts of the Dominion will largely depend on whether distance is also annihilated to the inhabitants of Canada. I hope the Committee will devote attention to securing even better than usual rates for those who are going to attend the meetings of the Association. I was sorry not to hear that an excursion was proposed to Niagara Falls.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). There is one proposed to the Falls.

Mr. BLAKE. Because the excursionists will then pass through Toronto.

Mr. ALLEN. It is very important that the distinguished visitors from England should receive special attention in this country. I received a letter a short time ago from the Secretary of the British Association, stating that 150 members were going by way of Owen Sound to the North-West. I sent the letter to our Mayor, and I am happy to say that action was immediately taken, and an official invitation sent to the Association to partake of the hospitalities of Owen Sound. Luncheon and other entertainments will be provided at an expenditure of \$1,000. I believe this amount of \$1,000 will be expended. No doubt, the reports as to what our country is doing, which will be circulated