

sidered that one immigrant from any of these Provinces is worth a thousand of the sweepings of Asia now brought in to work on the railway. The people who live in this part of the Dominion do not see the moral blight which the presence of the Chinese is inflicting on our Province. They cannot contemplate it, and I doubt whether the hon. gentlemen from the other Provinces will view this subject in the right light, until 16,000 of those people come to Montreal and 10,000 to Quebec, and an equal number is distributed throughout the manufacturing districts of the other portions of the Dominion, then these hon. gentlemen will, I am sure, feel compelled to take this matter up seriously and deal with it, as affecting themselves, as we ought to treat it in British Columbia. Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention at the present time to say much on the subject before the House. We all know that the question of immigration is important to every one of our Provinces, and we in British Columbia feel somewhat curious to know why the Government has refused to allow our Province to participate in the benefits accruing from the scheme of immigration. But British Columbia is not alone in this respect. I see that Prince Edward Island occupies the same position. I find that agencies exist for nearly every Province excepting Prince Edward Island and British Columbia; perhaps that is the reason why we receive immigration from Prince Edward Island, as they may have an overplus of population. I learn, however, from an hon. gentleman coming from that Province, that they also have opportunities for supplying immigrants with homes and for developing further their resources. Mr. Speaker, I will not trouble the House with any extensive remarks; but I may say I hope that the Government will see their way clear during this Session, not only to deal with the question of immigration to our Province, but also with our land question. You are aware, Sir, that a belt of land twenty miles on each side of the Pacific Railway, extending from the Pacific Ocean to the eastern boundaries of British Columbia, was set apart for the Dominion Government in order to aid in the construction of the road. Now, Sir, that land is at present locked up from settlement, and has been so reserved since the surveys were first commenced—or, at least, ever since the Order in Council was passed making Port Moody the terminus of the railway. It is impossible to expect that a great number of immigrants will come in and settle in the valleys beyond this twenty mile limit, for they would be obliged to wait until the intervening territory was settled up, and public roads were made extending to the outside of this limit. It may be urged, Mr. Speaker, that a great part of this land is rather too elevated for agricultural products, but I am satisfied, from a geological point of view, that the railway belt will prove equally as valuable to the Dominion of Canada as if it were all agricultural land. One point to which sufficient prominence is not given in regard to British Columbia, as an integral portion of the Dominion, is that she is not dependent entirely on one resource. She has mines, she has fisheries, she has lumbering interests and commercial interests, and she has every facility for availing herself of the National Policy in the highest degree. She has an unlimited extent of territory, she has a climate well adapted to manufactures, and she has in addition a great motive power possessed only by Nova Scotia on the Atlantic, for moving machinery and commerce. With these few remarks, I am happy to support the motion.

Mr. FOSTER. I had no intention of speaking on this subject upon a motion referring more especially to the Province of British Columbia; but it is not perhaps an inopportune moment to say a word in support of what has been said by the hon. members from British Columbia—for we are all Provinces of the same Dominion; and also to say one word for my own Province and some of the other Provinces

Mr. GORDON.

as well. I should not have spoken at all had I not been somewhat seized with the poetic afflatus—an afflatus which appears on the poetic names of the British Columbia members of the House, and seeing that it was an hour devoted almost entirely to new members I thought I could not break the ice at a better time. I went to the Department of Agriculture the other day and asked for their pamphlets. I received about nine different pamphlets. I took them to my room and diligently went over them. One was printed in French, one in German, and several in English; but if I had been an immigrant asking for information in regard to Canada—a country extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific and having in it more square miles than the United States—I should have received from reading those pamphlets the idea that there were only two places which were specially cared for, and those were Manitoba and the North-West, and the Eastern Townships. For all the pamphlets which I read contained not a word of information for immigrants except with regard to those two great places. I beg, as a humble and a new representative from the Province of New Brunswick, to give as much emphasis as I possibly can to the idea mooted by the hon. members from British Columbia, that is, that immigrants enquiring about the Dominion of Canada should have information placed at their disposal concerning the whole of the Dominion of Canada. The Eastern Provinces, the Provinces down by the sea, the Provinces of old Canada, were the kernel and are yet the back-bone of the whole Dominion; they were the stock-in-trade from which we have marched out to the purchase, and are now marching out to the settlement and the conquest in economic and civilizing ways of the vast territory then unknown to us. I think we should not in the general spirit of delight with which we boast of those vast territories and the general feeling of hope which is in our bosoms with respect to the great future which is in store for them, forget the older Provinces which have great things to contend against. You know, Mr. Speaker, as well as I, that the history of the United States has been that the Eastern States advanced to a certain state, and when the newer lands throughout the West became known, not owing to the National Policy or the want of a National Policy, but owing simply to that general drifting out into the new and the untried, there commenced an exodus—a natural and proper exodus of the people of the east towards the new lands of the west. The same thing has occurred in our Provinces down by the sea as well as in the Province of Ontario, and, as has been so graphically stated by an hon. member who spoke a short time ago, they are leaving Prince Edward Island in large numbers—leaving because of the general tendency of large portions of the population to seek wider areas in the countries which have been opened up in later years. Now, if nothing is done by the old Provinces adequate to meet that movement, we shall be threatened with a depletion of the older Provinces—for the building up of the new, it is true; but, a depletion which will be felt like the draining of the blood from the body of a man. So I repeat, with all the emphasis I can command, that the Dominion Government should take into consideration how information can be given of the best kind, which will enable immigrants to know the climate and the resources, not only of the North-West, but of British Columbia and New Brunswick and every one of our Provinces, so that the stream of immigration, whilst it will always and certainly flow to a greater extent out to the North-West where there are greater attractions, may flow to some extent to our older Provinces, in order to fill up the depletion of the population which has now taken place. I thank the House for listening to these remarks. I have merely made them because I think it a proper opportunity to impress on the Government and the House, the fact that whilst we are all glad of the abundance and bountiful prospects of the new lands which are being opened up, we must