

in population as we desire, it would not be wise policy for the government of Canada to make their disadvantage greater by holding out inducements to the young men of those provinces to leave their homes and go west. That view has repeatedly been advanced in the House by hon. gentlemen opposite, and I am obliged to take exception to it. If they have any cause of complaint at all in the east, and I do not think they have much, with regard to the immigration policy of the government, it is perhaps that we are giving too much attention to the west and not offering enough inducements to bring people from foreign countries to settle in the eastern provinces. There may be room for criticism in that direction, and if any suggestions could be offered to the Minister of the Interior whereby we could draw foreign immigrants, who are coming to the country, into the maritime provinces or into Quebec, he would be glad to do so. But, if we cannot get a new population into the eastern provinces from foreign countries let us, at all events, try to keep our own population and not offer inducements and use the money of the country generally to draw the young men of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Quebec away from their own soil, where there is work for them to do, and where they are needed, and to carry them to even so good a land as the North-west.

Mr. BOURASSA. I find myself in the rather unusual position of agreeing at the same time with the hon. Minister of Finance (Hon. Mr. Fielding) and the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk). I generally disagree with everybody, but this time I agree with everybody which is a happy change for me. What I mean is this: On general principles I entirely agree with the hon. Minister of Finance and I have taken occasion during previous sessions to disagree with the hon. member for Jacques Cartier upon this point. I do not think it is the duty of the country and I think it is the very opposite of the duty of the hon. Minister of the Interior (Hon. Mr. Sifton) to offer inducements to the people of the eastern provinces to settle in the west. But where I think the hon. member for Jacques Cartier is right is when he states that whenever young men from large farming families of the eastern provinces are induced to go to the United States, then, if there was in the eastern provinces some organization which would have the authority of the government or which would be upheld by the authority of the government that would try to prevent these young men from leaving this country and going to the United States, and persuaded them to go to the North-west, it would be to the gain of this country.

Mr. CLARKE. Is that not what the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) said?

Mr. BOURASSA. Not exactly that. The hon. member for Jacques Cartier said that inducements should be given to our young men, particularly in the province of Quebec, to go to the North-west.

Mr. MONK. No.

Mr. BOURASSA. I understood the hon. gentleman that way. If not, I am glad to say that I still more agree with him than with the hon. Minister of Finance. But there is no doubt that if the government would appoint agents in Quebec who would have special charge of the work of inducing young men to go to the North-west rather than to the United States, and if they received close instructions they would, to show their zeal and good work for the government, insist on going further and induce young men to go to the west. I think the government should co-operate with the colonization societies of Montreal and Quebec to a larger degree than at present. Here are two societies that are organized by worthy people who are entirely disinterested, who have no political, financial, or personal interest whatever. These societies are organized by people who have no other view than to promote the settlement of the province of Quebec first and then the settlement of Canada at large. Their first object is to induce young men in Quebec to remain in the province, to go and take up new land in Quebec; and to do this they offer facilities to induce them to become settlers and citizens of Quebec, which means, of course, citizens of Canada. But, at the same time when one family, or one set of young men, make up their minds that they will not remain in the province of Quebec, then they would be disposed to help them to go to western Canada rather than to the neighbouring republic. If, instead of appointing paid agents in the eastern provinces who would certainly go too far in the direction of helping young people to go from the eastern provinces to the west, the hon. Minister of the Interior and the federal government would give more substantial help to the colonization societies that exist already in Quebec, I think the object of the hon. Minister of Finance and the object of the hon. member for Jacques Cartier would be met; because these societies are composed of people who are entirely disassociated from politics or financial considerations, and they would certainly have as their first object the settlement of young men in the province of Quebec, and secondly inducing young men who did not care to remain in Quebec to go to the west rather than to go to the United States. I had the honour of accompanying a delegation from these societies on two or three occasions, and I must say that, although we were well received by the government, yet, we did not receive from the government the encouragement which, I think, we were entitled to.