

pondence with agents in all the principal places on the continent, from the Crimea to Iceland, letters being received and answered, in the German, French, Italian, Swedish, Norwegian, Dutch and Bohemian languages. I feel confident that if a judicious and well considered propaganda be now kept up for a few years a most valuable stream of emigration will be directed to the Dominion.

The increase I have referred to has taken place in the direct emigration from the continent to Manitoba and the North-West and does not include Icelanders and Mennonites. But this is by no means the only continental emigration to the Dominion, as the nucleus of a foreign settlement has been formed in British Columbia, in the shape of a fine party of fishermen and farmers who went out under my directions, and the colonies I founded many years ago in the Province of Ontario have received large accessions to their numbers.

The competition for emigrants is still keen. The agents in Liverpool and on the continent of the South Pacific Railway, of Texas, and California are very widely advertising the lands adjoining their line and are meeting with considerable success. The Queensland Government is again also very active, a certain number of married and single farm labourers and single women and domestic servants being offered free passages, and approved full paying passengers being given land order warrants, value £20.

The Government of the Argentine Republic is very active and has just opened an agency in London, but its principal efforts are made on the continent, a large number of emigrants being secured from Spain, Portugal, Italy.

It is stated that 138,000 immigrants have arrived in 1887, or 45,000 more than in 1886 and double the number for 1885. Very liberal concessions are made to colonists. One of the latest schemes for promoting emigration is described in the message from the La Plata Government to the Provincial Legislature. It is as follows:—

“It is needless to tell you, that any sound measure contributing to the colonization of the province will always meet with the approval and support of the Executive. Messrs Gorostiaga and Lacroze have raised a capital of \$15,000,000 which they purpose investing in the starting of colonies on a large scale. They propose to endow each colony with the necessary machinery, mills and stores on the co-operative system, and they will, to keep pace with the progress of each colony, open a stud farm, a steam flour mill, a model dairy farm, a distillery, a sugar factory, a brick factory, and large deposits. The company which intends to secure immigration from the North of Europe binds itself to sell the lots of land at reduced prices for which the colonist will pay by periodical instalments, and at the same time, to give the colonist agricultural implements, seeds, &c. The Executive, on the other hand, will give the company eight sections of land near the port and two blocks in the city upon which deposits offices and tramway stations will be built to facilitate trade and communication with the colonies. This concession shall hold for twenty years. The company is, of course, entitled to enjoy the privileges accorded by the recent Colonies Act.”

In a population of 3,805,000 no less than 560,000 are natives of Italy, France, Germany and other continental countries and the annual increasing emigration to this country is to a great extent attributed to the policy of setting aside colonies for the different nationalities. Thus in the Province of Santa-Fé there are 105 colonies comprising 80,000 inhabitants, whereof 32,000 are natives, 30,500 Italians, 6,500 Swiss, 4,500 French, 3,200 German, 1000 English, 1,500 Spaniards, 300 North Americans, 300 Belgians and 200 of other nationalities, and there are 40 other colonies in course of formation.

There existed for a long time in Canada a reluctance to adopt this policy, but this having been overcome, I have been able, under the direction of Sir Charles Tupper and your Department, to form the nuclei of several colonies of settlers from various continental countries in Manitoba and the North-West. The formation of such colonies is a very slow process, but a good start having been made, this branch of Dominion immigration will, in a few years, become one of the most important.