

REPORT OF REV. J. B. L. BOURASSA

MONTREAL, April 1, 1914.

To the Superintendent of Immigration,
Ottawa, Ont.

SIR,—I beg to submit the report of my work for the year ending March 31, 1914. During the summer months I have devoted my time to visiting my colonization districts, encouraging the newly arrived, and accompanying new settlers coming from the Eastern United States, where I had delivered lectures during the year. I delivered fifty-five of these lectures in the Eastern States, I also gave some twelve conferences in Quebec. In all cases, the attendance was larger than last year, and it seems all present were more interested than last year. I am inclined to pause a little, and remark that my conferences in the province of Quebec did a great deal of good, in the sense that I prevented some twenty-five to thirty families from going to the United States, who came to Timiskaming, visited the country and most of them took land and seem to be happy.

In accordance with my custom I invited questions, and after my lecture was over, I had to answer many special questions about the country. I must say that through these Eastern States that I have visited the majority of the French population are very anxious to come back and see our settlements in Canada. It seems to me that a great movement would be possible if the Government could advance the money to facilitate the return of these excellent settlers.

The colonization for the year in New Ontario, and Northern Timiskaming, especially the district of Nipissing and Algoma East, and county of Timiskaming, P.Q., has been very successful, not only as to the number of settlers but also in respect to amount of money invested. During the spring of 1913 delegations from the United States sent by intending settlers visited the different settlements and reported to those who sent them. I went with them each time that I was able. They were generally satisfied with the country and reported very favourably.

I attend to a large correspondence. This year I have received 855 letters, have written 939, and have sent 1,000 parcels of pamphlets and maps.

I have brought to this country 1,500 souls, placing them in Northern Timiskaming, Ontario. I have also placed some twenty families, including about 140 souls on lands in Timiskaming, P.Q. Those in Ontario took 245 allotments of land and are pleased with their lot.

The crop, of every kind, has a very good appearance and promises a fine harvest to the settlers of New Ontario and Northern Timiskaming, Que. On account of the labour conditions I expect a greater movement in 1914.

Your obedient servant,

Rev. J. B. L. BOURASSA,

Colonization Agent.