

Q. You say the loan that was made to the Mennonites, principal and interest, has been repaid ?

MR. BURGESS.—Every dollar, principal and interest, has been repaid, and not a dollar of principal or interest was asked to be remitted.

MR. ARMSTRONG.—If you get the right people to come to this country and settle on our land it will pay the country. It has been stated by Mr. LaRivière that the best men you can get are not always the men who have money. In my own neighbourhood, I know, the most successful farmers, the men who became independent and left their children independent, are men who came to this country with nothing to begin with. I can give you the most wholesale evidence of it. Dr. Roome knows East Williams well. Away back in 1840 the Duke of Sutherland evicted many of his tenants on the west coast of Scotland. They were dumped down in Montreal and they trudged up through the country on foot all the way from Montreal, and in our neighbourhood the kindly hearted farmers who had frame barns threw them open and provided them with assistance. They went to West Williams, a new township, and, would you believe it, these men are there to-day, and they and their descendants are independent farmers. And they have paid the Government for their land, although not all at once. There is not a man of them indebted to the Government to-day. If we can get the right sort of men, and get them to remain in the country, it will pay the country to do something to help them to sustain themselves until they can support themselves.

MR. LARIVIÈRE.—There is one thing that has to be looked after, and I am glad to be able to call the attention of Mr. Burgess to it. There is a movement just now that ought to be checked. While we are receiving in Manitoba a large number of Canadians who have settled in Dakota and in Minnesota, in one month this spring 250 people left Ontario, coming through Manitoba to go and settle in Dakota. Remember, Mr. Chairman, that was in one month only. They had \$23,000 worth of household furniture and cattle and horses, and were leaving the Province of Ontario to settle in Dakota and Minnesota. There must be some agency in Ontario from the United States and the American railway companies. There must be some agencies in Ontario working amongst the farmers and directing them to leave the country.

MR. WILSON.—How many did you say ?

MR. LARIVIÈRE.—Just 250 people in one month, in the spring, having \$22,000 or \$23,000 worth of household furniture, cattle and horses with them, leaving the Province of Ontario, passing through Manitoba, and going right straight south and settling in Dakota and Minnesota, while over 400 or 500 people from those places came from that district completely ruined, Canadians coming back to Manitoba.

MR. WILSON.—Those people are making a mistake in going to Dakota and Minnesota.

MR. LARIVIÈRE.—I think there should be something done to prevent this thing.

MR. BURGESS.—There are, I understand, some 30 agents of American railroads operating in the various cities, towns and villages of Ontario at the present time, and it is a rule that the railroads will not continue them in their employ or pay them unless they are able to show a certain specified number of settlers as having been placed on the lands of the companies interested every month. The Federal Government is in this difficulty. How far is it justified in inducing people to move from one province of Canada into another? On this account, the officials engaged on behalf of the Dominion Government in promoting the settlement of the Northwest have conducted no operations in the older provinces. What the Committee might fairly consider is: Is it not reasonable that the Government of Canada should be in a position to do the same thing in any province of Canada that the United States railway companies are doing? If it is a fact that some 30 agents of United States railways are operating in Canada to-day on conditions which make it necessary for the agents to send a certain number of settlers to the companies' land