

against the importation of food as a remedy for over-population, on the ground that it must always prove too precarious to be relied on, it follows that emigration must be resorted to, in order to carry off the annual surplus population. It is futile to raise any question as to the possibility of conducting systematic emigration to any desired extent, while so much of the habitable and even the fertile portions of the earth's surface is still unoccupied. It is manifestly to the interest of every country which has a government to support, to be able to distribute the public burdens on as many shoulders as possible; we would naturally expect, therefore, to see the different countries of America, vying with each other in their efforts to draw immigrants to their shores, and in the inducements offered for the purpose of attracting them. Such has long been the case with Canada and the United States, and with Australia and New Zealand, as well; and more lately it seems that Brazil is moving with such extraordinary energy in the matter that she is likely to prove a formidable competitor to the above-mentioned countries, in the labor markets of Europe. There are special reasons, obvious to all, why each Province of the Dominion of Canada, should seek to encourage immigration to itself, since both the number of representatives it sends to the House of Commons, and the annual subsidy it receives from the Dominion treasury depend on the number of its inhabitants. As might have been expected, therefore, the years which have elapsed since the inauguration of Confederation have been characterised by an activity in the furtherance of immigration unprecedented in Canadian history, while the new schemes, already perfected or only projected, bid fair to perpetuate and even extend the movement. Nor can the Mother Country afford to regard with indifference, a question so intimately affecting herself, as well as her Colonies. Considering the desirability of increasing the population of the latter, with a view to extending the market for British manufactured goods, it would be a good commercial speculation for the Imperial Government to devote special attention and some expenditure of means to the furthering of a systematic scheme of emigration, even if the relief to be experienced by the removal of the incubus of pauperism were left out of the calculation altogether. We shall yet see that a liberal emigration policy is still more urgently demanded, in view of entirely different considerations. Meanwhile it may be asked, if all, or more than all, of the annual