

the best possible advice as to how to proceed to their destination, and on arrival there, how to act in this their adopted country.

"A certain number of those people were at a disadvantage here, owing to the fact of being able to speak the Irish language only. Of course it is a difficult matter for such persons to make much progress in this country, where the Irish is almost totally unknown.

"Further details are hardly necessary, as Mr. Stafford, Immigration Agent at Quebec, having all official documents in connection with those people, will furnish all the necessary information concerning them.

"It is to be regretted that a large number of those people could not be induced to go into the country districts, preferring to remain in the cities, more particularly at Toronto, where some of those, failing to obtain employment, have suffered in consequence.

"Permit me to add that Miss M. Phelan, who had charge of the female immigrants, rendered me every assistance in the discharge of my duties.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"JOHN HOOLAHAN,

"Travelling Immigration Agent."

"Now, Sir, we perceive by this report, which I trust will have its effect, that there are favourable seasons and unfavourable seasons for the immigration of these people—that those who come during the months of May, June and July, especially of the class indicated—who, it appears, were in the large majority—get employment without any trouble. I am personally aware, from the statement of Mr. Desperance, the Immigration Agent in Montreal for the Quebec Government, that these people, in a great many instances, cannot be induced to remain in the Province of Québec; whereas, if they would do so, and would go into the Eastern Townships, where they would find a large population, where they would obtain employment from the farmers, and where they would learn the farming habits of this country, they could, in a very short time, accumulate enough money, if they did not wish to remain there, to go westward and procure farms for themselves. I think it is hardly necessary for me, after the very able and exhaustive speech of the hon. Minister of Public Works, to say one word in reply to the hon. gentleman who proposed this amendment. I certainly congratulate the hon. gentleman who last spoke, because he did say some patriotic things; but it would be drawing too much upon the imagination, for one moment to suppose that he added a word to the speech of the hon. Minister who went before him. With regard to those employees of the Grand Trunk Railway Company to whom the hon. gentleman referred as being about to lose their employment, or to have their wages curtailed, I think this honourable House and the country also will agree with me that it is a good thing that through the policy of this Government, there is more than one railway company in this country to give men employment. With regard to the disbanding of 9,000 men employed in carrying on the work of Pacific Railway construction north of Lake Superior, I think the argument used by the hon. gentleman was entirely unfair. It was never suggested for one moment that it would be a great disaster to this country to have these men disbanded and scattered broadcast throughout the land. Why, such a fraction would make no difference whatever. These men could obtain other employment; but the argument that was used was, that it would be a difficult matter to obtain men organized for that work, and in a position to carry it on, if these men were once disbanded. I contend that this amendment is purely *ad captandum*. It has never been the policy of the Government to induce those people, mechanics and others, to come to this country unless they intended devoting themselves to agricultural pursuits; and I think that the document I have read, signed by a gentleman so responsible as Mr. Hoolahan, will have its effect in the proper quarter, and that those who come here from Europe, the immigrants who come from the poorer districts of Ireland, who desire to make their home here, will abandon all idea of settling down in the large cities where they get employment in the summer on public works, but where, unless they save money and make

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provision for the winter, they will have to undergo great hardships. They will understand that they will have a rigorous winter to encounter, and that it is better for them not to come here at all than to come here and settle down in the cities; but that if they do come and take the advice of those who know what is best in their interests, they will go into the country districts, engage on farms, learn the habits of the country, and prosper as others before them have prospered, and I trust that all these who will come in the future will come in the proper season and follow the advice I have just given, and prosperity will be sure to attend them.

Mr. BLAKE. When the hon. Minister of Public Works rose to reply to the hon. member for Brant (Mr. Paterson), I felt satisfied that he would take advantage of an opportunity for which I considered he had been watching since the commencement of the Session, to develop that great policy with reference to immigration, by which he informed us, in the speech from which my hon. friend from Lotbinière (Mr. Bisfret) quoted, this Government was about to immortalize itself once more this Session. I expected, when the hon. gentleman rose on behalf of the Administration, to deal with a motion which brings up such considerations as the immigration to, and the emigration from, Canada, and the policy of the Government at large upon it, a motion which was supported by such an array of facts as those brought forward by my hon. friend from Brant, that it would have been dealt with by the hon. Minister who made the public declaration to which I have referred, and from which my hon. friend from Lotbinière quoted, not only in the spirit of defence which he used, but also in that spirit of exposition of the policy of the Government upon this subject, which he had foreshadowed in Montreal in such a way that he led us to hope for better things than we had experienced in the past. He alluded to several arguments generally alluded to in this quotation, and among them to the fallacious argument based on the *per capita* expenditure. We all know there are certain fixed charges with reference to the expenditure on emigration, as well as on most other subjects, and that to apply the question of the *per capita* cost of immigrants as the real test of the economy of an Administration, when the numbers conflict, is a wholly fallacious and illusory test. It would be trifling with the patience of the House to enlarge on that position. The hon. gentleman then adverted to the great increase in the imported numbers of immigrant settlers in Canada recently; but one of the great difficulties we have to deal with in this connection is that while we have not been able, from any bases of information which are given us, from all the information we can gather on all hands to check the accuracy of statements as to the number of immigrants settled in Canada recently, there do not appear to be any places in which the immigrant population, to which the hon. gentleman referred as remaining in the country, are. We cannot find them, and it seems to me entirely out of the question that these figures can be accurately stated. The hon. gentleman alluded, with reference to those telling statistics of my hon. friend as to the school population, to the difficulty arising out of the alteration in the New Brunswick school law. But that argument told wholly against himself, because the very period in which that trouble arose, and in which, owing to it, there would be a diminution in the attendance, was a period which contrasted favourably with the later period, when the difficulty was all over. So that, while that circumstance was to be taken into consideration, it was to be taken into question as one intensifying the force of my hon. friend's comparison of the earlier with the later years. There was, of course, no such suggestion with regard to Nova Scotia. But as to Ontario, if my hon. friend will analyze the figures as to the immigration to the North-