

had left the country, and yet the Department was well paid.

Mr. DAWSON said there had been general complaints of an exodus from Canada, but in his district, Algoma, the population had increased very rapidly for some years past. In 1871 the population was 7,000; now it was estimated at 23,000. That result had been obtained without possessing any special advantages, for the district was badly supplied with roads, and even now the mail was carried from Parry Sound to Algoma by dog-sleighs or on men's back, although it often amounted to 800 lbs. The population was increasing every day. In Manitoulin, about five years ago, there was a population of a little over 2,000; now it was estimated at close upon 8,000. The people of the American towns took much greater interest in their immigrants than our people did in ours. They drove them out to the lands and did all in their power to give them a favorable impression of the country.

Mr. RYMAL read an extract from a gentleman who left his (Mr. Rymal's) own riding and went to the North-West, where he purchased a quantity of land and settled there with his four sons. The extract was as follows:—

"It is too bad that through the bungling, or worse, of the Government thousands of the very best settlers should be driven from the country into the United States; but we cannot expect anything better from such a pack. Their friends have to get the pick of the lands first, and after that the people may get a chance. One thing that has done a great deal of ill out there this summer was the Order in Council that came in force on the first of May; it was to this effect: that settlers would not be protected in their rights on neither odd nor even numbers. Now, that you may fully understand what effect this would have, I would say that a large part of the land is yet unsurveyed within the last year or so, is yet withheld from market, and consequently the people were afraid to locate not knowing whether they might be turned off or charged two prices for the land. Now, under the late Government people were not only encouraged to go on to the land, but they knew that no other person could get it if they were on the land or had any improvements on it. They had the first chance, for before any person could take up this land they had to make oath that there was no person living on the land, and that there were no improvements on it. This Order in Council has driven thousands into Dakota this summer. And again, though the Agent was appointed last winter, or early this spring, it was this fall before he was prepared to take entries for the land. But there was he and an assistant, drawing about two thousand dollars a year for doing nothing. It seems the Government are afraid that the country is being settled too fast. A very strong supporter of theirs in Emerson told me that if they were the paid agents of the American Government they could not do more than they were doing to send settlers to Dakota and Minnesota."

Now, he knew nothing further than this: That he knew the writer of the letter well, that he knew that he was a man of strict integrity, and that he was a British subject to the bottom of his heart. He was a man that would sooner see thousands of Americans coming to this country, along with all the Canadians who were settled in the United States, than see one Canadian settle in the United States.

Mr. McCALLUM. Name, name.

Mr. RYMAL. No; I am not at liberty to give his name. It is a private letter.

Mr. HESSON. Then why read it?

Mr. BLAKE. Hear, hear.

Mr. RYMAL said why should he not read it? The writer of the letter was a candid, straightforward man, whose word was as good as his bond, whose word was as good as that of any Minister either in the past or present Government. With regard to the exodus from our shores hon. gentlemen were speaking of what they knew. There had not been a great deal of moving from his constituency, and the number who had gone to our own North-West was about equal to the number who had gone to Kansas, Arkansas, Dakota, Minnesota, Idaho and other States. A few who had gone to our own North-West had become dissatisfied with the land regulations and with the conduct of our agents in that country. He was told that these gentlemen put on a haw-haw style, and did not care to be accommodating to the people who asked them questions, and they must know the people who

Mr. CASGRAIN.

went into that country were obliged to ask a great many questions. He was under the impression that these agents were sent there for the purpose of giving information. If the information he had got was true the facts were in strong contrast with what had been stated by the hon. member for Algoma. The American agents were obliging; they could not do too much for the emigrants; they could not be too accommodating; they could not extend too much civility. If our Government were wise they would send a better class of agents to meet the settlers, for he was satisfied from what he had heard that many valuable settlers had left our North-West just on account of the land regulations and the incivility with which they had been met by the agents of the Government.

Motion agreed to; and (at 2 o'clock, a.m.) the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

FRIDAY, 4th February, 1881.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

REPORT.

Mr. McDONALD (Picton) presented the annual report of the Minister of Justice, as to Penitentiaries in Canada, for the year ending 30th June, 1880.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY.

Mr. POPE (Queen's) presented a Message from His Excellency.

Mr. SPEAKER read the Message, as follows:—

"LORNE.

"The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons, copy of the correspondence on the subject of the gratuitous transfer from the Imperial to the Canadian Government, of Her Majesty's steam corvette *Charybdis* for training school purposes.

"GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

"OTTAWA, 3rd February, 1881."

BILLS INTRODUCED.

The following Bills were severally introduced and read the first time:—

Bill (No. 45) to further amend the Patent Act of 1872.—(Mr. Pope, Compton.)

Bill (No. 46) to prevent and punish wrongs to children.—(Mr. Richey.)

Bill (No. 48) respecting the Canada Consolidated Gold Mining Company.—(Mr. White, Hastings.)

MARITIME JURISDICTION IN ONTARIO.

Mr. McCARTHY introduced a Bill (No. 47) to amend the Act establishing a Court of Maritime Jurisdiction in the Province of Ontario. He said: The Bill is intended to define the limit of the jurisdiction of the Courts with respect to seamen's wages. By the Maritime Court Act of 1877, all jurisdiction belonging to the Vice-Admiralty Court is conferred on that Court. By the Merchant Shipping Act of 1854, the right of a seaman to sue for wages in a Maritime Court is limited in this way: Either the amount must be beyond fifty pounds, or the owner of the vessel must be bankrupt or insolvent, or the vessel under arrest at the time, or she must have been sold by the Court. In those different cases the Admiralty Court, by the Merchant Shipping Act, had jurisdiction to entertain claims for seamen's wages. By an Act which was passed in England in 1863, the jurisdiction