

Country as well. My honourable friend says: "But if you get a lower rate on the seas, it will be unprofitable and may be at the expense of the community in general." I hope not. I hope that we may be able to get a lower rate which will not be unprofitable, and for which the taxpayers of the country will not have to pay. Even if they did have to pay to a certain extent, that should not scandalize my honourable friend too much because a statement which I read before the House opened, from a gentleman whom he knows very well, clothed with an expression of this opinion, which is perhaps shared by my honourable friend—"that to enable the products of the Western Provinces to reach more readily the markets so developed, the special transportation burdens borne by those provinces should be shared by the whole Dominion, either by contribution to the long-haul freight cost, or by assistance in some other form."

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: On land.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: So there is a willingness on the part of some people to bear part of the cost of railway transportation. The principal would be the same if there were losses on the sea to be shared by all the people; but all this would be conducive to reducing the cost of production in those three Western Provinces; and if, even at the expense of the taxpayers in general, we can do something to make farming in the West profitable, I think the country at large will agree to make that sacrifice, because the result will be prosperity in the East, by reason of the increased purchasing power created in those three Provinces.

My honourable friend has not dwelt at length on the question of immigration. He has simply mentioned the fact that we were quietly extending our operations in Europe, but he mentioned it in order to affirm that we were losing that population by emigration to the south. Of course, there have been considerable difficulties in starting anew the procession of immigrants to our shores. All our activities in that respect—our publicity and propoganda in Europe—had been stopped and had not been started again when this Government came into power. The whole of the machinery had to be organized and started in Europe, for the purpose of reaching prospective immigrants. Then the ocean fare has increased formidably, and this increase is a strong deterrent to people desiring to cross the sea and come to Canada. The proposed attempt to control ocean rates may help in increasing the number of immigrants coming to our shores. It must not be forgotten that

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

the best immigration agent is the satisfied settler, and in recent years we have had no help from those Western farmers who came from Europe. It is hoped that if they become more prosperous they will themselves attract immigration, through their letters to their families and friends. I do not think we shall be asking Providence for the impossible if we pray that the coming season may give the West, and Canada in general, a good crop. We are not expecting those wonderful crops that come occasionally, but with fairly good crop and a fairly good price our people in the West would be set on their feet, and I hope that the West, as well as the East, may next summer be blessed with such a crop.

My honourable friend has spoken of emigration. He has mentioned one of the causes for the departure of some of our people for the south, namely, that wages have been considerably increased in the United States, owing to the fact that the door has been practically closed to European immigrants, but left open on the Canadian side. Thus there has been produced in many centres a certain shortage of labour, and wages have gone up. There was a time when the United States received 500,000 to 1,000,000 men a year, and two-thirds of the number were distributed among the towns and cities, and this helped to maintain a fair wage scale. My honourable friend, who has been the champion of labour, will admit that it is an abnormal situation that labourers can get a dollar an hour. That is a reversal of world conditions. Perhaps the rate is higher.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: Two dollars an hour.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I am told it is even two dollars an hour.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Two dollars a day on Portage Plains.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: So it is no surprise that some of our people have been attracted by those higher wages. My honourable friend, in referring to the number of people who have crossed over to the United States, has been obliged to use American data gathered at Washington; for a country never keeps tab of those who leave it, but takes account of only those who come in. Many of our people who cross from the older provinces do so with the intention of returning. We have never had in Canada a census of the people who have come back. In March last, for the first time, our officers were asked to keep a record of the number of Canadians returning who had been in the United States six months or more, but less than three years,