

large immigration from the United States. The number of immigrants that came in last year was very satisfactory, and, considering all the difficulties we have had to contend with in the North-West, in the past, I am glad to say that the people seem to appreciate the offers we make, and, as I have said, we expect a very large immigration this year, not only from Europe, but also from the United States. I think the hon. gentleman is aware of the inducements that the Government offer to intending settlers. To every head of a family taking up 160 acres, a bonus of \$10 will be given and a bonus of \$5 to every member of the family over twelve years of age. That offer is now made, in addition to the 160 acres of land, to immigrants coming from Great Britain and Ireland; and although not many have, so far, taken advantage of that liberal offer, we have reason to believe that in consequence of the information given to people in the old country a large number coming in this year will take advantage of it and become settlers in the North-West. I have information from all parts, from Iceland and from Great Britain, and from the continent and from our agents in the United States, that this year a very large number of immigrants will come into our country. I might state that the Government have decided, after very full consideration, that it would be wise to transfer the immigration branch of the Agriculture Department to the Department of Interior. Nearly all the immigrants that come to this country go to the west for the purpose of taking up free homesteads and free grants of land. As the Department of Interior has a large staff of officials connected with the lands in the North-West, including a land commissioner, land guides and land agents, able to give every information that immigrants may require, it is thought well to make this transfer, and by doing so we hope to save a good deal of money. Instead of having two staffs, we will have in the future but one staff, who, with some additions, will be able to discharge the duties that will devolve upon them. That is one of the changes that has been arranged and will be carried out. I believe that the efforts of the department and of the Government will be devoted to doing everything that can be done to advertise our country, and to show the advantages we possess over almost every other country; and we hope that in consequence of the publicity that has been given, and the inducements that are offered, a very large immigration will find its way into our North-West, and that that country will soon be filled up with a rugged and industrious population.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Well, Mr. Chairman, this is precisely what we have been told time after time for the last ten years, almost *verbis ipsissimis*; and with the statement I hold in my hand I must say the hon. gentleman does himself very little credit, and does his department no credit at all, if that is all the explanation he has to give to us of the fact that whereas his department alleged that 886,000 immigrants were brought into Canada within the last ten years, our census returns show that our total population has only increased by 500,000. The hon. gentleman tells us that he has no means of ascertaining, and his department has no means of ascertaining, whether it was true or false that the immigrant settlers in Canada

amounted to 112,458 in 1881, 133,000 in 1882, 103,000 in the succeeding year, 79,000 in 1885, 84,000 in 1886, and so on. Well, Sir, if that is all the explanation the hon. gentleman has got to offer us, he would do infinitely better to save the \$200,000 which he now proposes to expend on immigration. The hon. gentleman's policy and the policy of his friends has resulted in this: that, while they claim to have brought 886,000 immigrants into Canada, we will find when the census returns according to nationality are laid before us, that of the 886,000, not 200,000, may be not 100,000 of all these people who have been brought here more or less at our expense, have remained in Canada. I had hoped that the hon. gentleman and the Government, having considered this question, would have been prepared to submit to us some rational explanation of what has occurred, and also that they would have been prepared with some better policy for the future. Their policy has been a total and radical failure from start to finish. They have brought no immigrants of any value to this country, except a few who have displaced our native population. I believe that if the results of the immigration policy were examined, it would be found that the only immigrants who have come to Canada and have remained here, of a class whom we desire to have in Canada, are persons who come in without any reference whatever to the Immigration Department. The examination I have been able to make into the question leads me to believe that, almost the entire number of immigrants which are alleged to have been brought here by the Government, have been brought more or less at the instigation of the various transportation agencies, railroad and steamboat companies, and they have had no sort of intention of staying in Canada, but have made Canada merely a temporary halting place before they proceeded to the United States. That, I believe, is to a great extent the whole history of the expenditure that has taken place, amounting to several millions during the past ten years. But there is another side to this question which the hon. gentleman has entirely ignored. Now, I have often contended in this House and elsewhere that we are committing an atrocious piece of folly in bringing immigrants from foreign countries, at a great expense to the people of Canada, who, to all intents and purposes, such of them as remain here, simply thrust our own people out of employment, or simply drive our own people over the border. I will be far more disposed to assist the Government with a grant if they would use it for the purpose of keeping our own people in our own country, and promoting the settlement of the North-West by our own countrymen from the older provinces, in place of bringing European immigrants over here. It appears to me at this present moment to be a monstrous piece of absurdity for us to pay for the introduction of European immigrants here, while at the same moment it was known to every man in this Parliament that tens and hundreds of thousands of our own people are yearly leaving our older provinces and seeking homes in the United States. I submit that the true immigration policy for the Government to pursue is to direct their attention to facilitating the settlement of our own people from older provinces in the North-West Territories. I have no objection whatever to men from any other country, men of good health and good habits, coming and settling in our own