

Railway Company have received from Canada favors such as no railway company have ever received from any other Government in the world, that company have done almost nothing in the way of promoting immigration, and that in the State of Dakota and other neighboring States of the Republic the immigration is brought about, not by the Government, but by the railway companies. Here is a railway company with immense resources, receiving unparalleled favors from the Government, and they have practically done very little indeed in the way of promoting immigration. I think that the attention of the Government might be very well turned by that hon. gentleman and their other supporters from that part of the country to the desirability of taking some steps to induce the Canadian Pacific Railway Company to bestir themselves more than they have in the past towards introducing a desirable class of immigrants into that part of the country. No doubt the North-West will be peopled before very long: for one reason, that the greater part of the desirable land in the neighboring country has been taken up, and the only large tracts of good land left on the continent will be in Canada, so that the country must necessarily be settled before very long. There was another idea which occurred to me that the hon. gentleman from Calgary might have suggested. We have representing us in London a gentleman whose ability and energy it would be hard to over-estimate, and of whom hon. gentlemen are very fond of boasting. Now, one would suppose that that gentleman, with his great energy and ability, would have been able to do something, during all these years during which he has filled the office of High Commissioner in London, towards directing a stream of desirable immigration into our North-West, a country which is panting for immigration of that character. I do not know why it is that that result has not been brought about, unless it has been that the High Commissioner has been occupied during all the time that he has been able to spare from business on this side of the water in negotiating a commercial treaty with Spain. Ever since about the year 1883 this commercial treaty with Spain, according to the newspapers, has been occupying the earnest attention of the High Commissioner.

Perhaps if we have to wait for immigration to the North-West until the High Commissioner has negotiated that treaty I may be nearly as grey as my oldest brother member. I hope that some substantial foundation exists for the congratulatory tone of the paragraph with reference to the Behring's Sea seizures. I do not propose to repeat what has been said on that subject, but I do wish to call attention to the fact the language of this paragraph is very guarded. The hope expressed is of a very indefinite and not very positive character. His Excellency says that he feels confident that the representations already made will have due weight, and he trusts that he may be enabled during the present Session to assure us that all differences on this question are in the course of satisfactory adjustment. His Excellency does not assure us that they are now in the course of satisfactory adjustment, but that he hopes they will be. We have been in that state of hope, as the hon. member from Ottawa has said, for the last four years; and we have not yet begun to enter into the fruition of our hopes. I could not help being struck with the great contrast between the manners in which England has dealt with the United States and with Portugal.

It would be a marvellous thing nowadays to find a Speech from the Throne in which we were not told something about the appointment of a commission. I find this time the Government have been appointing one to inquire into the methods of catching, curing and packing fish in Holland and Scotland. I do not quite agree with the hon. member from Ottawa in thinking that our fishermen know all about it. At any rate, there is perhaps something which they may learn; and there may be some room for improvement in their methods, not perhaps of catching so much as of curing and packing fish. I see that the Commissioners have already acted: the hon. gentleman from Ottawa appeared to be under the impression that they were only about being appointed; but they have been appointed and have made their report. I hope that there will be some practical result to follow from their inquiries. It is doubtful whether those commissions are the best method of acquiring information. Commissions have been appointed in England and other countries with a view of investi-