

certain portions of the United States. That point, though apparently well taken, is not, I think, a real objection to the plan that is being followed. These gentlemen during certain periods of the year leave their parishes, where they are permanently located as clergymen, and go to the eastern states and labour among the French Canadian people. I am in doubt as to whether it would be a better plan to endeavour to employ clergymen of the church who are actually stationed in the United States. We do know that the gentlemen who are engaged in this work at the present time are sincere and active in the promotion of the work. We know further that their work is fairly successful. Whether we could depend upon the work being done in the same way and with the same zeal and earnestness if we employed clergymen residing permanently in the United States, is a question with regard to which I think there is room for a difference of opinion. So far it has appeared that the best plan to follow is the one we have adopted, of employing clergymen whose permanent location was in the province of Quebec, giving them a small additional stipend and thus assisting them in carrying on their work. We have in addition to that, an agent stationed at Mattawa, for a district to which a number of our French Canadian people are going, to assist them in their location when they arrive. He sometimes travels in the United States as well. In addition to that, we give a grant to a colonization society which has its headquarters in the city of Montreal, and to another colonization society whose headquarters is in the city of Quebec. We have been giving each of these societies \$3,000 for the last two years.

Mr. CLARKE. Are these societies incorporated under the laws of Quebec?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I am not sure, but I think they are. The question of increasing these grants has been under the consideration of the government during the present year. It was especially brought to the attention of my hon. friend the Postmaster General when he was acting for me in my absence, and it has been brought to my attention by him since my return. In addition to these expenditures, we give to the Lake St. John Railway Company, and have been giving for the last six years, a sum of \$8,000 a year. This company expends this sum of \$8,000 and a sum considerably in excess of that, I believe, in colonizing the district which the railway serves. They present a report every year showing the nature of the work which they have been able to accomplish. For my own part I am free to say that I do not think there is any more really effective and valuable immigration work being done than is being accomplished by the expenditure of these sums to which I refer; and I have no objection at all to assenting to the view

which has been expressed by a number of members from the province of Quebec that a more liberal assistance should be given for this work. I am glad to hear from the members from the province of Quebec who have spoken on the subject, that they approve of what has been done, and that they would approve of some further assistance being given in the same direction.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I suppose no selection is made of these immigrants on creed lines? They are all brought in here irrespective of what church they belong to?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. We know of no distinction.

Mr. MONET. French Canadians are all Catholics.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I think my hon. friend will acquit me of any religious prejudice in regard to the immigrants that are brought in, as they belong to almost every creed.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). The minister says he is giving assistance to colonization societies. I presume they are Roman Catholic societies?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I think they are wholly non-sectarian societies.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. No doubt they are mixed.

Mr. MONET. What I mean by my remark is this: The hon. gentleman spoke of repatriating French Canadians from the United States, and I meant to say that in regard to the question of religion, the French Canadians are all Roman Catholics.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Not by any means.

Mr. MONET. Ninety-nine out of every hundred.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I was about to say that the work in connection with the movement of French Canadians back to Canada has been of slow growth, and has only been developed by very constant and persistent work. It has not been at all an easy thing to accomplish, and I think the gentlemen who have been doing that work are entitled to very great credit for the success which has attended their efforts. In the discussions which have taken place, some hon. gentlemen have referred with emphasis to the fact that the immigration to the United States was something over 600,000 last year; and figures are given—I do not know whether such was the intention in the present debate—apparently for the purpose of indicating that we are not getting our share of people that come from the older countries, and that the success which has attended our efforts is the result rather of a general movement of population than of any special efforts on