

West. It is a striking evidence of the excellence of that portion of the Dominion which is being opened up, that the influx of population from the neighbouring States has been so great. Of 8,000 who entered it, under an arrangement made by one party who had the conveyance of those persons, 2,000, or one-fourth, are said to have come from the United States of America. If that statement be true, it furnishes a commentary upon much that we heard in connection with the relative advantages of our country, as compared with that on the opposite side of the border, during the last Session. There has been, to some extent, distress in other parts of the country, but this, I presume, will be sufficiently overtaken by local efforts of our people, with the understanding that, in all cases where local contributions and efforts are available and adequate, it does not come within the province of Parliament to afford relief. I have said that we may rejoice in the accession of population which has been witnessed during the past year in the North-West Territory, and we may certainly look forward, as a consequence of the visits which have been paid to this Dominion during the past year by the Royal Commissioners of Agriculture, and by the tenant farmers who came out to inspect our country and who have carried home such valuable and favourable reports, to a very great increase in the numbers who will seek to domicile themselves in this Dominion during the coming year. If there is one thing more than another in which I think this Dominion has failed in its duty towards those seeking a home in new countries it is in this, that proper pains do not appear to have been taken in order to make them thoroughly acquainted with the advantages offered in this country, and to facilitate their progress through it and their settlement in it after their arrival. I think, in accordance with the suggestion which is thrown out by His Excellency in his Speech, that it becomes the duty of Parliament to adopt such measures as may be necessary in order to afford to those who may arrive among us a proper reception, and that it will devolve upon the Government of the day to take such means in the appointment of their officers that, whatever reproach this country may have suffered from in the past will be entirely

avoided in the future. The settlement of the North-West, the introduction of a large number of emigrants to it will however be entirely vain and futile if means are not adopted and promptly carried forward, for opening up communication between it and the other parts of this Dominion, and for affording facilities for the transit of the produce of that country to the markets of the world. It is on this account that I observe with pleasure the assurance that the Pacific Railway is being pushed forward with vigour and success, and that in a very short time we may hope to see the line between Lake Superior and Winnipeg in full operation, so that, before many years have passed—but little over two years at the outside, I presume—we may expect to have a locomotive travelling from Thunder Bay to Winnipeg. We have also, Sir, the information that one hundred miles beyond is already under contract and tenders are being received for one hundred miles still further, thus opening up two hundred miles into that wonderfully fertile country into which we are hopeful of introducing so large an emigration. That this is being done, and that the Government, as I am assured they do, expect to be able to complete that railway beyond Winnipeg and equip it fairly at an expenditure not exceeding \$10,000 per mile are facts upon which we may well congratulate the Minister who has that Department more particularly in charge, and the Government with which he has been associated. Then, in connection with those facts, we have the information afforded us that, after a full survey and a thorough investigation of the various advantages afforded by the different proposed routes, the Government have selected Burrard Inlet as the terminus in British Columbia. That, I think, will afford satisfaction to both sides of this House, to all who are here assembled representing the different views which have obtained in this Dominion regarding that line of railway. I certainly participate in the feeling that the selection has been a most wise and judicious one, not only diminishing the cost of the railway itself and the distance to be traversed, and thus bringing us nearer to the eastern countries, but at the same time presenting advantages which must have commended it to the present Government as they did to the

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