

know Canada well. The most of them are subscribers to Canadian newspapers and follow the news of Canada pretty closely. A great many of them, I am glad to say, are in good circumstances. Many of them settled in the United States long ago, when we had no industrial establishments worthy of the name. I have no hesitation in saying, and public men who have followed the course of things will share my views, I am sure, that if we had more industries in the past, we should not have seen so many of the children of the soil leaving us to settle on the other side of the line. I would say also that if we had had a better agricultural policy we should have retained within the limits of our country many people who have left us. I am very much afraid that the local governments have not always done their duty, and are not doing their duty today. Speaking for the province of Quebec, I say without hesitation that for years and years—I do not speak in any party spirit—we have not practiced the proper policy of colonization. And we are not doing it today. Things are going on which should not take place. The provincial governments could do a great deal to promote colonization. If we want to encourage immigration and colonization in the provinces where the lands are covered with timber and the distances are long, we must have colonization roads. The provincial governments must do their share. If the two governments, federal and local, will work harmoniously together, I think we will have a larger immigration into all the provinces than we are having now. It is good news indeed that the Minister of the Interior gave us yesterday, when he said that he expects this year 125,000 immigrants will settle in Canada. That is good news, but we must not forget that immigration on a much larger scale is pouring into the United States. The immigration into the United States will be over 600,000 people. Last year it was about 500,000.

Mr. WILSON. 730,000 last year.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. I saw the figures a few days ago, perhaps I am wrong, but I think it was 650,000. It seems to me the time has come when we must put forth determined efforts to settle this country, not one portion alone, but every portion where there are available lands.

Referring to the Lake St. John district, three years ago the Dominion government gave a subsidy to the Lake St. John Railway to continue that road sixty miles from Roberval towards James' Bay. I think it would be good policy for the government to supplement that subsidy this year. Of course we do not know yet what the government intends to do with reference to their railway policy. If the big projects that are now under discussion in the newspapers materialize, that is to say, if the Grand Trunk Pacific traverses that part

of the province of Quebec which was going to be traversed by the railway to which we gave a subsidy in 1899, so much the better; but if not, then I would suggest to the government the propriety, the importance, of adding to the distance that was subsidized in 1899.

My hon. friend from Gaspé (Mr. Lemieux) has spoken of French immigration, of which we have received very little. If I am not mistaken, about 70,000 people emigrate from France every year. A good many of them have been going to the Argentine Republic; but of late years the French government has encouraged emigration to its colonies, to Algeria, to Tonquin, to Madagascar, &c. I think, however, that we might get some immigration from France, some good immigration.

The hon. gentleman has also alluded to the establishment of a direct line of steamers between France and this country. We have made so many unsuccessful efforts in that direction in the past that I am beginning to despair of any appreciable results. I trust, however, that if the government is now negotiating with any parties, they will take good care to avoid dealings with schemers and promoters. We have had a lot of them in the past that have simply disgraced the name and credit of this country. I say this deliberately. I hope that my former colleagues will take good care not to fall into the hands of people who will disgrace the name of Canada, and lead to another unsuccessful effort. I do not mean to say that those who have been trying to establish a line between France and Canada in the past have done anything improper, but they were not strong enough financially, and consequently they did not succeed. I hope, without making any personal allusion, that if the government deal with any company or any parties, they will take good care to deal only with those who have sufficient financial ability to carry out the enterprise, for which parliament has voted a large sum of money. I have nothing more to add except that I beg to call the attention of the Minister of the Interior to the request that has been made by the Lake St. John Colonization Company. I think if the grant of \$3,000 that has been made in the past was doubled, the number of people who have settled in that district would also be doubled.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I asked the Minister of the Interior if any steps had been taken to bring out honourably discharged British soldiers to Canada as settlers, and he has not answered that question. While he is on his feet, I would also like him to give us a little synopsis of the plans that have been made to entertain the British members of parliament who are coming out to visit this country. I may point out to the minister that last year a number of newspaper men came out to Canada from the old country, and some of them