

gration agent and secures for us from the country from which he comes the very best class of settlers. There is another point to which I wish to draw my hon. friend's attention, a point that, he will admit is a very important one when you come to the expenditure of such large sums. I have been through the older provinces, and I find that in Nova Scotia, judging from what the people there tell me, the best of their young men go to the United States. I have never had time to verify that, but I was told it by serious and responsible men. I inquired why the province of Prince Edward Island has not increased in population, and I was told that the young men, when they grow up, left there and went to the United States. The same thing was told me with regard to New Brunswick. In regard to the province of Quebec, I need not tell the committee that a very large mass of our population, and a very good element of that population, has strayed into the New England states. They have been attracted there in different ways. At a time when farming was bad, or at a time when manufactures in New England towns were prosperous they went to the United States. They went there in flocks. It is alleged that there are a million of our fellow-countrymen in New England. Of that million probably 300,000 are settled there in a permanent and absolute way. I doubt if there are so many who are thus permanently settled in the United States, for I have visited these towns and I know that many of these families look upon Canada as their country and have never taken out their naturalization papers, as they say, but work in the factories there in the hope of returning to Canada some day. So you have there about 700,000 people born in this country, British subjects, who only ask a favourable opportunity to return to their native country. With regard to Ontario, I am not quite so familiar, but I have been told that a great many Canadians born here have drifted over to the United States. Under these circumstances, is it right for my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior to lay it down as an absolute condition, as I heard him do yesterday, that, in spite of the government's large expenditure on immigration, they would not assist any of the eastern population to go and settle on the plains of the North-west? I think that is a mistaken policy; and if my hon. friend pauses to think of the number of our own people who are living in the United States at the present moment or are preparing to migrate to that country, he will see the wisdom of diverting a great proportion of this money towards facilitating the establishment of our own people on these plains where there are opportunities for the production of incalculable wealth. If that money were expended in carrying on this work according to a proper system, the difficulty pointed out by my hon. friend from Alberta, a difficulty which

has struck many people who have visited this part of the country, would be removed. Now my hon. friend the minister will observe that in his department there is a very small, an almost infinitesimal sum set aside for the repatriation of these fellow countrymen of ours who are in the United States, and who ask for nothing better than to come and settle in the North-west. I was out, not through the North-west, but through a portion of Manitoba a year ago, and I found that in a place called St. Laurent, I believe, four or five men from the province of Quebec who had been in the United States, and who had suffered there, and were happy to have returned to Canada. Instead of settling in the province of Quebec, they have settled in Manitoba and they are rich farmers to-day, perfectly contented and happy. What has happened to these four or five individuals who I happened to meet might happen to many more. Their number might be increased ten thousandfold if, instead of reaching out to get these extraordinary types of people from the continent of Europe, my hon. friend devoted a part of the money to bringing in Canadians whether they may have left the province of Quebec, the maritime provinces or Ontario, by letting them know what the advantages are of settling in the North-west and offering them facilities, great facilities, for settling there. I find in the Auditor General's Report of last year a very large sum indeed devoted to agents in the western states. There are agents in Iowa, in Nebraska, in Illinois, in Kansas, in Missouri, in Wisconsin and many other western states; and I do not think I am exaggerating when I say that the expense of these agents, their salaries, their offices, and so on, would amount to about \$70,000 or \$80,000. On the other hand there is a sum of \$1,800 paid to Mr. Brisson, the representative of La Société Generale de Repatriement de la province de Quebec. Now I do not think this great expenditure of the department is properly appropriated. I think that a great deal of this large sum, which I place at between \$70,000 and \$80,000, is spent for agents who have no experience, though experience is one of the first qualities requisite for an immigration agent. I do not think that sum can give us an adequate return.

I know that, speaking particularly of the province of Quebec, some of our people who have emigrated to the United States and are now in the New England States, would be delighted to come back. I know that my hon. friend has supplemented that by a grant made since. I believe there is an agent or two who gets some \$600. But what I wish specially to call the attention of the minister to is the belief I entertain that if the hon. gentleman would expend judiciously a little more money towards the repatriation of our own compatriots in the United States, men born here, British sub-