

administration—the hon. gentleman knows more about that than I do—there was a somewhat similar effect in stimulating immigration. But, of course, my hon. friend knows that there is another circumstance which has had a great effect in turning population from the United States of America to the North-west Territories. The high price of lands in the United States and the cheapness of land in Canada and the fact that our cheap lands are advertised by the splendid crops that we have had—these things account to a very great extent for the immigration coming into Canada to-day, and at which we all so much rejoice. But I rose mainly for the purpose of asking my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior whether or not, in addition to the record we keep of immigrants coming into Canada, the Department of the Interior keeps any record of emigration from Canada? It is very desirable that these figures should be kept. I think, notwithstanding what my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior has urged, that if we can go to the United States of America and bring back into the province of Quebec men who have left agricultural pursuits there and gone into the factories of New England, if he could successfully accomplish that—and the hon. minister seems to think he can—

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I was not referring to the movement from the province of Quebec, but to the movement from other provinces.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I think the hon. minister said he had agents at the present time employed in endeavouring to repatriate these people. Of course, he knows the conditions better than I do; but I should imagine that the people who have gone to the United States were engaged, for the most part, in agricultural pursuits in the province of Quebec, and that they are engaged now in industrial pursuits, and it is for us to bring them back from these industrial pursuits, repatriate them in Quebec and let them engage once more in agriculture. If that is possible, is it not possible to divert some portion of the population which is still flowing—still flowing, I tell my hon. friend—into the United States from the maritime provinces, and direct it into the North-west Territories? Because, however excellent may be the quality of the population we are getting from the United States and from the British Islands to-day, I say you cannot get a better quality of population than that which is going from the maritime provinces to the United States of America. And if any portion of the very considerable sum now being expended by the Department of the Interior could be used to divert these people to the North-west Territories, I am sure my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior would be willing to adopt that course and would rejoice as much as we would in diverting that

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

movement of population into that great western country, which would flourish even more than at present if that could be accomplished. For that reason it seems to me it might be desirable for the Department of the Interior to endeavour to get some statistics, some information to lay before this House with regard to the movement of population from the province of Quebec, if there be any, and from the maritime provinces to the United States, to compare it with the movement of population to the North-west and see if some portion of the funds of the government could not be used with effect in making this a movement of population within our own country. I know that the industries in Sydney, Nova Scotia, have possibly kept at home people in the maritime provinces, particularly within the last two or three years. Yet, I am quite convinced that there is a distinct movement of population in Nova Scotia, and, no doubt in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, to the United States. And naturally so. These provinces are surrounded by water and they have means of cheap communication with the United States of America. There are great industrial centres within twelve, fifteen or twenty hours of the homes of these people, and which they can reach very cheaply. You would naturally expect, under ordinary circumstances, some movement of population to result from this condition, and that movement does take place. If we could do something to change this and send that population to the North-west Territories, none would rejoice more than I should, and I am sure the Minister of the Interior would be glad if his department could be the means of effecting this change.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. We have at the present time a record, fairly accurate, I think, of the movement of population from Manitoba and the North-west Territories into the States. It is of trivial extent. But we have no officers to keep a like record in any other part of Canada. The only record of any kind that would furnish an indication of the extent of the movement year after year, would be found in the Trade and Navigation Returns of the settlers' effects that are exported from Canada. They would not give any accurate figures, and as my hon. friend will see, it would require a very elaborate and expensive system to check the number of people going out of Canada.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Would it be possible to obtain the information from the United States returns, or from any information in the possession of the immigration officials of the United States?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. There are such United States returns, but I doubt if they are very reliable. They have been quoted from in former years, and have been used in newspaper discus-