

Mountains. Still, he wants to go further than he has done in the original notice—to provide artesian wells for farm and domestic purposes. I do not think our country needs anything of the kind. We have plenty of productive virgin soil still throughout the North-West, and plenty of places for people to go and settle where there is sufficient moisture naturally, without requiring irrigation, to produce crops. My hon. friend may have an interest himself in some part of the country which is not of that character. If so, it is unfortunate for him; but I do not believe that he himself declares that irrigation is necessary, except for small portions of the country. The inclemency of the climate there has been spoken of as a drawback to settlement. I have been asked myself, more than once, how about our winters, and I have always endeavored to convince people that our winter was one of the great advantages of our country. The severe frosts of the winter stores in the soil a large amount of moisture in the shape of ice, which is brought to the surface at the time it is most required to promote vegetation, and especially the wheat crop.

That was my impression, that it was largely of that character; that unlike the conditions in warm climates, these crops were sustained by a regular supply of moisture that was permanently in the soil. I say it is a wise provision of nature. In the United States it may be necessary, in some parts of the country, to have artesian wells and reservoirs and great "bores" to maintain a supply of water, but I do not think our House should be bored with anything of this kind. The resources of the country are sufficiently "bored" already, without calling upon the Government to make this lavish expenditure for a purpose which I believe is wholly unnecessary. There is no country in the world with such a fertile virgin soil as we have. For growing crops of all kinds the soil of the North-West naturally surpasses that of any other country in the world, without any of those artificial means for promoting the growth of vegetation. Kind nature has provided everything for settlers to make themselves prosperous and happy in almost any part of the North-West. Surely this libel on the North-West, which the hon. gentleman from Burlington has, I am sure, unintentionally, put upon the Paper, and the remarks with which he

has supported it, do not justify or sustain the Government in incurring the expense of making this survey. Before I take my seat I wish to quote a remark of a friend of mine, a descendant of one of the oldest families in the country from which I come, the Rev. Leonard Gaetz, who was before the Colonization Committee of the House of Commons the other day. He said that in North Alberta he has never heard, even from the oldest settlers in that country, of any necessity for irrigation there. The soil has sufficient moisture to nourish and produce luxurious grass and grain crops. My hon. friend himself has admitted to-day that while he was in that country last year, even though it was an abnormally dry season, he found there was an average crop of grain. If that is the case in the North-West in an abnormally dry season, there is no necessity for irrigation under ordinary circumstances. There is no doubt that in the United States, where the desirable agricultural lands are all taken up, there is a necessity for reclaiming their arid lands to make them attractive for settlement by means of irrigation. Canada is now about the only place left on the continent in which people can make a choice of rich, cultivable soil which they can cultivate with a prospect of success. I hope the Government will not entertain this motion. I do not believe that the present position of the country warrants the Government incurring such an expenditure as this motion would require, to make reservoirs and artesian wells.

HON. MR. PERLEY—Being a resident of that country to which this motion refers, it may not appear amiss if I should say a word or two on the subject. When I made up my mind to leave my native home in New Brunswick and go to the North-West, I naturally made some inquiries about the prairie country, and I may say that I had no favorable report given to me of it at all. A man who had been all over that country said that I could not raise potatoes there bigger than marbles, on account of the frost. However, I went out there, and it was only after mature consideration. I may say that from the start I took particular pains to look into and examine the different characteristics of that country. When I made up my mind to settle in the country I commenced to make a study of it, and I have discovered that the country