

put on his own little farm. A few little printed sheets distributed amongst these men, instructing them how and when to put in their crops is all that is necessary to teach them how to begin. If these men had been taken out by the Interior Department, placed on homesteads, and each furnished with a little cottage ready to put up and the necessary furniture—the whole thing would not cost more than from \$350 to \$400, which would rest as a lien on the homestead—in a few years, we would have our North-west peopled with a class who would make the country prosperous and progressive beyond measure.

Mr. SCOTT. How would the hon. gentleman settle the farm labour problem?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Let them meet it any way they choose. That is another point—I do not think this country is called upon to meet the farm labour problem. This country is called upon to deal with the homesteader, to get men to come in take up our lands and establish their homes. Let the farm labourer come along at his leisure.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. I have been for a few years one of the honorary presidents of the Quebec and Lake St. John Colonization Company. During the years I lived in Quebec, I happened to pay frequent visits to the Lake St. John district. I know that district well. It is one of the most fertile belts in this country. The population of that district is about 40,000 souls. A few years ago, it was a wilderness. During the last two years we applied to the Department of the Interior for further assistance. The colonization company has received \$3,000 a year for the last three or four years. We asked for \$6,000 a year. I am very sorry to say that our request was not acceded to. Our colonization company is composed of 700 people, amongst whom are 500 priests. Every member pays one dollar. These people are working for love, if I may say so; they are engaged in a labour of love and do not charge anything for their expenses or for the work they are doing in the interest of the country. I am sorry we have been refused the further assistance we have asked. During the years from 1897 to 1902, the Quebec and Lake St. John Colonization Company have located in the Lake St. John district 2,228 families. That is a large number of people. Had we been fortunate enough to receive more assistance, I think we might have doubled the number of people who have settled in that district. The greater number of people settled there are repatriated French Canadians. There are some foreigners, people from Belgium and France, and a very few Englishmen. Of course, some of these French Canadians who came back from the United States for the purpose of settling in the Lake St. John district went away again, as is the case in every part of the country. But the greater

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria).

part of them remained, and as I said 2,228 families have located there during the last five years. The Quebec and Lake St. John Railway Company and the colonization company have incurred an expenditure of \$119,000, and they have received from the government of \$54,000. So, excess of expenditure over what we received from the government is about \$65,000. In my capacity as one of the honorary presidents of the colonization company, I had the honour of having some correspondence with the members of the government, with the Prime Minister and others, and also with the Department of the Interior. We were requested to double our subscription if we wanted to have more money. In reply—as will be shown by the correspondence, which will be brought down, I hope—I distinctly stated that it was unfair to ask that from us, for the reason that in the North-west nobody is asked to form colonization companies and contribute money to bring in immigrants to this country. I think it was a very unfair answer that we received. I say again that we were requested to double our subscription if we wanted to receive more aid—

Mr. LEMIEUX. When was that?

Hon. Mr. TARTE. Last year. I have the letters in my possession, if they are not brought down. I hope that answer will be changed. I have no objection whatever—and in this I think I speak the mind of all the French Canadian members of this parliament—to every encouragement being offered to immigration to the great North-west. We are represented out there; we have about twenty-five thousand of our own race who were the first settlers there.

Mr. LEMIEUX. The pioneers of the west.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. Yes, the first settlers. It seems to me that parts of the country outside of the North-west where there are fertile lands should not be forgotten. I make these remarks in a friendly spirit, and hope they will be accepted as I offer them. There are other parts of the country that deserve the same treatment at the hands of the government that the North-west receives. I believe that my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior was not here when the correspondence to which I have alluded took place, and I take this opportunity of placing the facts before him and before the country. I have received myself, personally, answers which contributed, perhaps, to a certain extent, to send me into private life—to a certain extent at any rate. Reference has been made to the repatriation of the French Canadians, I happen to have visited the French Canadian centres in the United States on several occasions. I have no great confidence in the policy of repatriating the French Canadians—if I may so put it—in a violent manner. The French Canadians that are in the United States