

Mr. HESSON. The report of the hon. Minister of Agriculture shows that there has been some little improvement in that direction; the statement of the hon. Secretary of State is borne out by the fact that in France some work has been done, whether through Mr. Fabre or other causes I am not prepared to say, but in the Report of Immigration of 1881 the number coming from France was 104, while during the past year it amounted to 306. This shows a very marked increase which, of course, may be accounted for by the fact that Mr. Fabre has been doing some service.

Mr. ROYAL. (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, it is perhaps proper that I should speak on this question in the language of the gentleman whose services are the subject of this debate. I refer to Mr. Fabre, our Commissioner at Paris. Residing, myself, in the North-West, I have been in a position to witness the results accomplished by our Paris agency. We have had in the North-West—and on this point I will take the liberty of contradicting the hon. member of East Quebec (Mr. Laurier)—we have had in the North-West some three years ago, attempts at colonization, which have partly failed because the Paris agency had not been organized on a proper footing; the want of information which was felt at this Paris agency prevented a great number of persons from joining the tide of emigration which was started in France, but which unfortunately failed subsequently. On the other hand, we have cases of individual colonization; and we have seen important settlements created by five or six persons who have come from France. These persons have brought with them large amounts of capital, and the farms which these individuals have improved are now thriving establishments. Most of these new settlers have come to the North-West, after getting information from Mr. Fabre, at Paris. I think, Mr. Speaker, that the establishment of the Paris agency is the work of the supporters of the hon. member for East Quebec; and if, at a certain period, we have had a certain class of immigration to which the hon. Secretary of State has referred a moment ago, an undesirable immigration, which we have been obliged to divert on the American continent, it is due to the friends and supporters of the hon. member for East Quebec. This immigration has ceased, because the Hon. Mr. Fabre has not thought proper to encourage the immigration of socialists. Let the proper means of organization be given to Mr. Fabre, by the opening of a proper office, by establishing at Paris an immigration agency, such as there are in other parts of the European continent, and I am certain that we shall have a large immigration, an immigration which will be important not only as regards the number of immigrants, but also as regards the capital which they will bring with them to the North-West. There is certainly, with all due deference to the opinion of my hon. friend, the member for East Quebec, quite a tide of immigration from France, not from the poor class, but among men having capital and exercising an influence on the people. I am in a position to know this by letters which I have received from people with whom I have been corresponding for the last three years, and quite recently a gentleman from France wrote to me that certain capitalists there, were desirous of investing money in these enterprises. Even now, I am having a correspondence with the Department of the Interior, with a view to obtain a land grant for a French settler now residing in Manitoba, and who is in a position to establish a very extensive ranche. He commands sufficient capital to draw here an immigration which will be beneficial both to him and to the country. Now, Mr. Speaker, wonder is expressed at Mr. Fabre not having, with \$2,000 a year, sent here 1,000 or 2,000 immigrants every year. Well, for my part, I am astonished that Mr. Fabre should have done as much as he has done, with the limited resources at his disposal. He is acting semi-officially as immigration agent

Mr. LAURIER.

for Canada; he is at the disposal of those who go through Paris, and he endeavours to direct them here. I think, Mr. Speaker, that instead of judging so severely, and so unfairly I must say, the efforts made by Mr. Fabre, hon. gentlemen opposite, who have themselves established this agency when they were in power, should be the first to ask the Government—that which we are unanimous in asking on this side of the House—that this agency should be put on a proper footing, not only as a matter of form, but also as to the result which should be obtained, and these results we will never get them as long as we curtail the appropriation which we are asked to vote to maintain a sham organization of an agency at Paris. Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for East Quebec has, I believe, made a statement which is not exactly true, when he said that the French population was decreasing. I think this is a point on which there are differences of opinion. The population has remained more or less stationary, but it has not decreased. After the great European wars, the population remained stationary for a moment, in consequence of these wars and of the large emigration which went to South America and to other parts of this continent. As to the causes which are pointed out, they do not exist on French territory; and as the hon. Secretary of State has said, if the hon. member for East Quebec only took the trouble to read certain essays on economy which are published in scientific reviews, he would find that instead of decreasing, the French population is increasing. It is not increasing in the same proportion as it was wont to increase; it is not increasing in the same proportion as in the Province of Quebec, but it is certainly increasing in a proportion which is perceptible enough to be noted by those who deal with this branch of political economy. My intention is not to add anything more to my remarks, and I shall conclude by saying that the efforts made by Mr. Fabre have been very fruitful; that if we have in the North-West large and thriving establishments managed by men having capital, energy and intelligence, it is due to the efforts of Mr. Fabre. I am certain that if the agency we have in France was better organized, if it was stronger, the results instead of being individual, would become general, and the hon. members opposite would be the first to praise the Government for having asked the House to vote not only \$2,000, but \$10,000 or \$20,000 for this purpose.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentlemen who have just spoken have taken a view of the case which is not, I believe, borne out by the facts. In the first place, the hon. Secretary of State has advocated, as a wise thing, justified by the results, the present arrangements in Paris. The only fault he finds with it is that it is not an adequate arrangement, that larger arrangements ought to be made, but he says great things have been done under the present arrangement. We have not seen them, but he says they have been done. The policy of the Government, however, of which the hon. gentleman is a member, has been disclosed, and that is to discontinue the arrangement, not to renew the contract with the Hon. Mr. Fabre, which was for a period of three years, and it is therefore plain the arrangement is not a satisfactory one to the Government; it is plain, therefore, that the state of things is not such as they are prepared to continue. Whether they propose to enlarge or to diminish or what, Mr. Fabre's engagement is not to be renewed; and from the statement of the hon. gentleman, I should presume there was not any settled policy of enlargement, because he called on my hon. friend opposite him (Mr. Laurier) to join hands in order to put a pressure, and he knows how to put a kindly pressure on the Government, to create, as I believe, a large immigration agency in Paris. I may say that we have been endeavouring to obtain immigrants from all the countries of the continent, and I believe no man has been found on either side of the House to discourage