

of another question, a question that has a strong bearing on the question of transportation, namely, the question of immigration. I propose to examine what have been the results of the efforts made by the present government in the direction of finding producers, those who can produce commodities that may be transported from the farms and factories to the eastern markets. We have a very large area of fertile soil, and an immense and rich heritage belonging to Canada, and it behooves the government, as far as it possibly can, to get this vast heritage of vacant lands filled up as rapidly as possible, so that our country will be peopled and will be benefited to the very largest and fullest extent. In Manitoba, the North-west Territories and Athabaska, we have no less than 300,000,000 acres of land fit for either ranching or agricultural purposes. This immense area will give a home to millions of people who will make a competence out of it, as well as derive happiness for themselves, and I may say that this large area of our country will accommodate no less than 25,000,000 people. Efforts have been made, Mr. Speaker, for the last twenty-five years, to fill up that large extent of country, but, until recently, the attempts made have not been so successful as we have ardently desired. The present Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), when he assumed office, applied himself to the subject with a will and with a purpose, and he succeeded in establishing a vigorous and well-devised immigration policy, which brings to him, in my opinion, great credit for his wisdom, his tact and administrative ability. He appears, indeed, to have grasped the whole situation, to have appreciated the wants and needs of the country in that respect, and he has conceived and carried out an immigration policy with a degree of ability that redounds very much to his credit. He employed immigration agents possessing a knowledge of the wants and needs of the country. He chose them from among the very best men we have, men of large personal knowledge of the resources and needs of the country. These men were sent to the different parts of the world for the purpose of bringing Canada as prominently as possible before the communities of these various countries. This country was brought before these communities in the form of lectures in regard to its climate, soil, products and markets. Rural scenes were brought before their eyes by magic lantern views, not views of ice castles, of grizzly bears, of war-painted Indians, not views of Miss Canada dressed in her toboggan suit or snowshoes, not her eternal snow-clad mountains of the west, but views of her orchards, her fields of growing grain, and of garnered crops, of thousands of horses and cattle grazing on her ranches, of homes as they were and homes as they are, showing by contrast the improvement and progress made by the people who have come into

the country. These were the scenes that roused in the breasts of those who heard these lectures a desire to come to Canada and share the blessings that Providence has so bountifully bestowed upon us. These were the scenes which were presented, and not scenes of snow and ice, high mountains, and wild animals, which appeared in the pamphlets sent out by the Conservative party, and which were described so enthusiastically by the emigration agents sent out by them. Only about thirty years have elapsed since the first survey was made in Manitoba, and since the first immigrants commenced to go in there. I believe that the province has not filled up as rapidly as it should have filled up; still, I have pleasure in stating that we have no less than 30,000 farmers in the province of Manitoba, occupying about one-third of the soil, but still leaving room for 60,000 more. The saleable products of the province of Manitoba, in 1889, amounted, in value, to no less than \$23,000,000. If the progress of the past even continues for the next ten years, we will have a production in the province of Manitoba the extent of which it is not safe to predict. Take the improvement in Manitoba in one year. In 1899, there were 1,011,355 acres prepared for the crops of that year. The amount prepared for the crops of this year, 1900, is 1,492,085, or in other words, an increase over last year of 480,630 acres, or an increase of 32 per cent in one year. If the saleable products be as bountiful this year as they were last year, we may expect them to be nothing short of \$30,000,000, an increase that is greater than any one year in the history of that province. When I state this fact the House will see what the government has been doing for that country. No less than 10,000 farmers went into Manitoba and the North-west Territories during last year. The wise and vigorous policy of the Minister of the Interior has been crowned with abundant success, and has produced fruits of which we are all proud, irrespective of the party that we belong to. But, I have said already that there is ample room in that vast country for 25,000,000 people. That fact will give an idea of the great work which the political parties of this country will have to do in the near future, namely, to people that country with thrifty and industrious settlers. The task will take time to accomplish, but we must put forth all the energy we possibly can to assist the hon. Minister of the Interior in the efforts which he is making to bring people into the country. I may say that the hon. Minister of the Interior is on the highway to accomplishing a great deal; in fact, he has accomplished a great deal already. We would all rejoice to see that country occupied by our own people, by people from the old country, Anglo-Saxon and Celtic, but, we cannot expect that to a very great degree. While we seek to get immigrants from other