

I agree with the hon. gentleman who has just sat down, that a part of the great emigration to that country, which has taken place this spring, can be accounted for by the reasons he has given us. There is no doubt that there is something in the special condition of things in the manufacturing towns of the Eastern States, which has led to a portion of this emigration. There is no doubt that special efforts have been put forth by emigration agents to secure emigrants to take the place of parties who have joined in the strikes which have lately taken place in the Eastern States. There is a normal emigration from the Province of Quebec, which takes place every spring, and those emigrants return and live in Canada during the winter. This would account for a portion of the large emigration which has taken place from the Province of Quebec during the last few weeks. I am well aware that a large emigration has taken place to the Western States and Territories also, which we should like to have seen attracted to our North-West. This emigration, to my certain knowledge, is still going on. One reason why emigration has taken the course it has taken is the general impression which prevails that the advantages offered by settlement in the American territories and states are greater than the advantages which are now offered by our own country. I am bound to say that a general impression prevails that the regulations existing in the American system are more liberal and more advantageous to settlers than our own. I believe that that impression has some foundation in fact, and for this reason. The hon. the First Minister in his statement in the House neglected to state, after making a comparison of the prices charged for land in the two countries, that the lands in the United States of which he was speaking were railway lands. There is no doubt that in the reservations made by the American Government for railway purposes, the alternate sections are advanced in price from \$1.25 to \$2.50 per acre, but there are large tracts of land open to settlement in the United States which are not railway lands, and which can be obtained by settlers for \$1.25 per acre. There is this peculiarity, with reference to these lands, in the United States. They

are more accessible for settlement than our lands in the North-West, which we have fixed at a higher price than that demanded for American lands. Take the territory of Dakota for an example, to which a great tide of emigration is setting in from the province of Quebec and I believe from the Province of Ontario. In the central and southern portions of that territory, there are no lands set aside for railway purposes. They are all open for settlement, and the settler going in there cannot only select a homestead of 160 acres, but he can also preempt 160 at \$1.25 an acre, which he is not obliged to pay for for three years. In addition to that, he can get 160 acres for planting, within five years, ten acres with trees. He practically gets that for \$1.00 an acre. Settlers going there, have thus the opportunity of getting 480 acres of land by paying \$1.25 at the end of three years for 160 acres. There is another advantage to which I have not referred. Railways are rapidly extending into that territory. From the adjoining states three great lines of railway are proposed to be built which will traverse that territory diagonally from the south-east to the north-west, and before very long will intersect the Northern Pacific railway, thus bringing all the arable lands of that territory, practically, within reasonable railway communication. I mention these facts as reasons why we should adopt an exceedingly liberal policy in regard to our lands in the North-West, and why we should correct the impression which now prevails, not only among those who are going from our older Provinces, but also among the emigrants from abroad, that our land policy is not as liberal as that of our neighbours. We should offer, at least, as great advantages to new settlers, as do the Americans. It may be true—I suppose it is—that the class of emigration agents to which my hon. friend from Cardwell refers, are very persistent in their attempts to induce settlers by plausible representations to remain in the United States. I need hardly say that, if the reports of these gentlemen are not founded on fact, they will not carry weight to any great extent. The false impression which they may succeed in creating at first, will be very soon dispelled. I am afraid, however, there is some foundation at least for

MR. SCRIVER.