

ing the means of showing more clearly the union of interests which exists among the various parties of one and the same country—that is to say, members of the same body—and that one portion cannot be strengthened without the others feeling the effect. This far-sighted policy, this enlightened public spirit which makes it to be approved and supported, causes me to hope that the patriotic scheme brought forward by the hon. the Minister of Agriculture seven years ago, when he was at the head of the same Department as part of a former Administration, will be continued this and the following years. I speak now of the encouragement given to Canadians living in the United States to return to their native country and rendering it more easy for them to go and establish themselves on the lands in our North-West Territory, a country with a great future before it. In every respect, one could not expect to find a class of colonists more worthy of the benevolent consideration of the Government. They are already acquainted by experience with our climate, almost all of them have already cultivated the soil, they have the same manners and customs as we have, they love our institutions and are attached to them, they ever cherish Canada as being their native land, which they have quitted with regret, being forced to do so by adverse circumstances, and with the intention of being absent therefrom as short a time as possible. Drawn away by an illusion, in common with many others, they thought that they might be able to make a little fortune in a short time and immediately return to the country. The greater portion of them failed in the attempt, but they do not the less deserve on this account our sympathy and encouragement, and so much the more, inasmuch as we have need of colonists of this character to open up our North-West Territories to agriculture and progress. It cannot be plausibly objected that, before doing anything to encourage Canadians now in the United States to establish themselves in Manitoba, or some other portion of the North-West, we ought in the first place to come to the aid of Canadians living here who equally desire to go west; for it must be remarked that the Government has not the same interest in favouring the mere transplanting of our population from one

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part of Canada to another as it has in attracting from foreign countries colonists whose establishment on our soil would add to our numerical strength and to our national wealth. Without reckoning the fact that the return to Canada of Canadians now living in the United States, forms one of the most efficient advertisements of the advantages offered by our country to emigrants who wish to devote themselves to agriculture, at the same time it is a commendation of our institutions as compared with the greatly extolled, perhaps too greatly extolled, institutions of our neighbours that ours contain the best provisions which are to be found in theirs without imitating their most defective features, and I do not believe that this fact is completely foreign to the desire, possessed by the greater number of Canadians living in the United States, of returning to live in their native country. It is a desire which honours them as much as it should rejoice us and revive our devotion towards preserving intact the precious arch of our own institutions. The country will learn with joy that, by reason of the vigour with which the Government has pushed forward the works of construction of that portion of the Pacific Railway between Lake Superior and Red River, we shall soon be placed in direct communication with the sister Province of the west, by a line of railway passing entirely within Canadian territory. We cannot fail to recognise the great advantages which the colonisation and development of Manitoba and the North-West will derive from the immediate construction of almost one hundred miles of railway to the west of the Red River, and from the construction afterwards of one hundred additional miles, being a prolongation of the first portion in the same direction across a fertile extent of land, well fitted for agricultural purposes, and which, in course of time, will attract thousands of colonists if, as we have every reason to expect, the price of land continues within the reach of every purse. With the watchful care which has so far distinguished it, the Government will take care that the great monopolists will not have too great license in extending the line of their speculations, to the injury of the interests of emigration and the advance of these important regions