

large sums of money on this service and the Province of Ontario pays into the Dominion treasury a pretty fair proportion of the money which goes out for that purpose, and I think I have said on other occasions in the House that I do not think the Dominion Government are treating Ontario quite fairly with reference to immigration. I think there is a greater effort put forth to get settlers into the North-West, than there is to give Ontario a fair share of the result of the expenditure of money in this direction. I may say, however, that during the last year we have received better attention from the Dominion Government than we have hitherto. As a result of representation to them at various times they now assist us more than they formerly did. The Government of this Province is endeavoring to do their part to remedy the shortage of farm laborers. Last year the department sent out direct to the farmers about 2,000 men. In addition to that a number of farmers came at different times to the Colonization office at the Union Station on the arrival of laborers and selected for themselves, with the assistance that could be given by the officers of the department, and took many others away to their homes. Then a number came through and went to friends and obtained employment in the locality where their friends lived. In these ways we estimate that during 1903 at least 5000 laborers were provided for the farmers of the Province. The course taken by the department is this. We send out forms and a letter to the secretaries of the Farmers' Institutes, and to all farmers who apply for farm help, asking them to fill in the form stating what help they required, and giving such particulars as the form calls for. During the present year a larger number of farm laborers have reached the department to date than in any preceding year, and since the middle of January 148 farm laborers have been distributed. Last week forty were sent to their various destinations. Applications for farm help are coming in very rapidly, which would seem to indicate that the demand is not yet supplied. During the last week I am

informed that we had an average of 50 applications a day, and every effort is being put forth to meet this demand. Mr. Kyle has been sent to England by the Government to make a special effort to induce this class of immigration to come to this Province. He is an experienced man and showed by his trip last year that he was thoroughly competent to undertake the work. He is succeeding remarkably well in inducing some of the very best farm help in the British Isles to locate in Ontario.

#### Our Proud Position.

I feel that I have taken up the time of the House quite as long as I should, and, in conclusion, I think that the country may congratulate itself on the present financial position of the Province. (App.) And I think, also, that the country may congratulate itself on the future financial prospects of the Province. (Renewed Applause.) Not only had we a surplus last year on the ordinary work of the year, but we also have prospect, as I stated in opening, of a large surplus during the present year. And then from our timber resources, under proper management and with proper care, at a very low estimate we can look forward to a revenue of at least \$200,000,000 for the people of the Province in years to come. Now, we do not expect to get more than a million and a half per annum from Crown timber. Even if two million were received per annum it is easy to see that this would make provision, under proper care and management for a hundred years of revenue from that source. (App.) And this is well within the estimate. I am sure that the financial statement of the treasurer, as presented to the House, will not only give satisfaction to the members thereof, but will give satisfaction to the people throughout the Province of Ontario. I trust that no member of this House will try to misrepresent to the disadvantage of the Province our financial position as a Province, a position acknowledged to be unique among not only her sister Provinces of the Canadian Confederation but unique also among the states of the American Union.