

cause of the good crops in that country. We know that for ten years previous to last year there were good crops in the North-west—and I am always pleased, though the people of the North-west compete with me in growing grain, to learn that they have escaped frost and have good crops. And why? Because they are my neighbours. A large number of young men from Ontario have settled in that country and have built up homes for themselves there. The hon. member for Selkirk gives us to understand that it is only when the present government is in power that the crops are good; but according to the hon. gentleman himself, last year the crops were not good, although this government was in power. I believe that immigration should be carried on. We must have people in this country, we must develop our vast resources. We must settle people on our land. A former government, led by one of the great statesmen of this country, thought it advisable to enter into an agreement with British Columbia to build a road across the continent. And, as a result that great North-west which, when I first heard of it, was known as the Hudson's Bay territory, was developed. All this has been due to that railroad that was built by the much-abused Conservative government. I do not think that the present government would like to destroy that great highway across the continent; I feel confident that they are glad that a party was then in power that had the courage and the hardihood to build that road. I am satisfied that it was one of the grandest things that ever happened to Canada. I am not speaking from a party point of view, for, I care not who did it, it was one of the grandest things that ever happened for the development of this country. I do not intend to bore the House by speaking at great length. The first time I spoke here, I said I would not say very much during this, my first session—whatever I might think, I would say little. But, unfortunately, I have been on my feet a number of times. And I have failed to give satisfaction to all parties when I have spoken, and I do not expect to give satisfaction to all to-night. But let us investigate this immigration business a little further. I shall not give the government my plan for bringing immigrants into this country, because they would not accept it. They might take advice from a straight Tory—but they will not take it from me. But there is one thing I object to, and that is sending out as immigration agents every party hack who cannot get a job at anything else. Now, I find here in this report mention of a gentleman whom I have never seen, but whose name I have often heard. The people of my county would like to see something of him, because in West Elgin they know something of him—to their sorrow. He came there on the eve of a by-election and took up quarters at one of the hotels and sent for some of the young and doubtful voters. He

had strong views in regard to their health and wanted to see them. Some people are uncharitable enough to say that they voted as he told them to.

Some hon. MEMBER. What is his name?

Mr. ROBINSON (West Elgin). I never like to mention people's names unless they are present. But I find in this book that he is an immigration agent and that his salary for twelve months was \$3,000. But, besides he gets living expenses—I have to pay my own board—\$673.10; travelling expenses, \$793.64; cab-hire, \$31.15, cablegrams, \$23.73; exchange—I suppose that is on the exchange of money between Canada and Spain or some other country—\$3.40; express, \$1.46; insurance—I suppose that would be on his life—\$11.43; parliamentary papers and hand books, \$9.17; postage and telegrams, \$56.86; stenographer, \$5.19; stationery, \$3.04; Swedish translation, \$5.11; Traveling to Canada and return, \$205. So he had a holiday during that year. Perhaps he came over to clear himself from the accusations made against him in West Elgin, and the government pays him for coming over. If I had been in his place I would have had to pay my own expenses. Now, I find that the whole expenses amounted to \$4,822.28, if I have figured it right, that he drew from the treasury of this country last year. We were told this afternoon how few immigrants have been introduced through his exertions. Now, I have not mentioned his name yet, I do not think it would be advisable to do so. Mr. Speaker, I do not bring this as an accusation against the government only in so far as that man was a played-out politician, and was a tool of this government, or of any other government who wanted to give him a job. But if he was a good man, the best man that could be selected for that place, then I would be willing to give the government credit for it notwithstanding all the money he has cost us. Now, he has an office. Of course, you see, he is travelling all the time, and I should think he would need to, by the amount of money that he has spent. But he has an office, and he has to keep that office open. Now, I contend that there is no need whatever for an immigration agent to have an office in London, or in Liverpool, or Brussel, or Paris, or anywhere else. His duty should be to go amongst the people and to instruct them as to the benefits they would derive by coming to this glorious country; and if he would take up—not his bed and walk—but take up his map and his diagrams and go to the villages, and to the people's houses, notifying them beforehand that he was going to lecture on Canada and tell the villagers about this country—then he would be rendering Canada some service. The class of people we want are the workingmen, the husbandmen. We do