

could acquire lands in Canada were easy. The greatest factor which has tended to the development of the Northwest has been the trips made through the country by newspaper men who disseminated their experience through the United States press. No fair man will deny that more has been done by this agency which cost us nothing, than by all the immigration agents this government has placed in the United States. I quote some samples of the literature published in the American press :

A special correspondent of the Chicago 'Tribune,' writing from Rosthern, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, on July of last year says:

The American invasion of Canada is no more a figure of speech. The tide of emigration now setting in to the Northwest Territories is a movement of population comparable only to the great wave which for four generations swept into the United States from the Atlantic to the Rockies. The United States became for the first time a country of emigrants as well as immigrants, and is giving her northern neighbours experienced farmers, intelligent, trained in western agriculture, good citizens, thrifty, progressive sons of the men who turned the rock prairies into an agricultural empire, and now seek new homes with a patrimony and experience which their fathers lacked.—Chicago 'Tribune.'

A new nation is being born under our very face and eyes. Things are shaping faster in Canada than most of us here in the United States realize ; indeed, faster than Canada herself realizes. The Northwest of Canada is rapidly filling up with a new life from eastern Canada and from our own Northwest. Farmers in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, and the Dakotas are selling their valuable farms and are moving with their families, implements and live stock, up into this great harvest field, and are receiving a most generous welcome.—'Saturday Evening Post,' Philadelphia, Pa.

The editors of the 'American Agriculturist,' recently made a 4,000 mile tour through Manitoba, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The report of what they saw, after referring to the adaptability of western Canada for the growing of small grains and to the excellence of the stock, says :

Among the settlers are many from the United States. Such rapid development as we saw is only possible in a country blessed with a fertile soil and a prosperous people. The future of western Canada is full of promise. Rapid and substantial development is certain. When the newer part of the United States was settled, it had much to contend with. There were no railroads, consequently no markets. With the settlers in Canada everything is different. Railroads have preceded them, furnishing at once a market and means of securing the comforts of modern farm life.—'American Agriculturist.'

This information and this advertising of Canada in the newspapers of the United States has tended greatly to help the cause of immigration into our Territories. It has been argued by my hon. friend from South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean) and others, that if these lands had been given to the provinces they had peculiar advantages to administer them wisely, and, they would

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have had the opportunity to apportion them to railroads by way of bonuses if they so desired. There are cases in which the provinces can better deal with these assets than can the Dominion. In the district of Nipissing in the province of Ontario there are large deposits of nickel and copper, which I believe will become of vast value to the province and to the Dominion at large, when by salutary laws the export of nickel in its raw state is prohibited.

Another case, which may by analogy turn out in the Northwest is the fact that the Dominion government—I am not now referring to either political party—neglected to place an export duty on logs, resulting in the closing of the saw-mills on the Georgian bay and Lake Huron. Millions and millions of Canadian logs kept the Michigan mills busy at the expense of Canadian mills, and mill owners after failing to impress their ideas on the Dominion government, appealed to the government of Ontario. The government of Ontario bowed to public opinion in the matter and did what the Dominion government failed to do, to the great advantage of the province and to the great advantage of the Dominion at large. Indeed so successful has been the result of this policy that no political party would dare to interfere with it to-day. I believe that the administration of the lands in the Northwest could be much better conducted by the local ministers of the Crown who are on the spot, than by the mere agents of the Dominion ministers who are of necessity twenty-five hundred miles away from the scene of operations. For all these reasons I believe that the administration of the lands should be handed to the provinces, and I believe further that if the provinces are to be tied down to a fixed annual payment, some day, perhaps in the not distant future, these provinces will be coming back to us asking for better terms. I believe that if the Minister of the Interior advanced before public meetings in the west the argument which he has advanced in this House to-night he would not touch a very responsive chord in the hearts of the settlers in the Northwest, who, I believe, are of the opinion that the provinces should have control of their lands, and not the Dominion government as this Bill proposes.

Mr. LAKE. The hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) has proposed one method at any rate under which it might be possible for the new provinces to realize to some degree the actual value of their public resources. I consider that the figures quoted by the hon. gentleman were not in any way too roseate. The member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Scott) made a very hopeful estimate of what the population of these new provinces might be in the near future, and if that estimate be correct it is not only possible but probable that the figures given by the hon. member (Mr.