

were only a few months since assisted in their extremity by individuals or institutions. Some of them, too, were in possession of little properties, in the purchase or construction of which they had expended some of their earnings. Some of those properties have either been mortgaged up to quite as much as they would bring at the present time, and upon others the mortgages have already been foreclosed. We are looking forward to the time when these people will be in full work again and when it might be possible for them to once more put something by.

The Provincial Government has in the past—though that policy has now been abandoned—expended considerable money in bringing out settlers. Why, then, since some of the long-headed statesmen of the motherland have deemed it by no means outside of their function to do something towards establishing people in their own homes, could not something of the kind be considered here by the Parliament which is so soon to meet? The provincial credit is good and it has been able to raise on advantageous terms the money that was required for enterprises in no way more commendable. As THE COMMERCIAL JOURNAL has more than once observed, there is an element among us whose energies at present are not being turned to the best advantage. Why not put an experimental colony on the land and give them what might prove to be the opportunity of their lives? As for the pension scheme, that might be deferred pending the result of the other experiment in the direction of paternal government. The people, if once they were established on the land, would become consumers of manufactured products, for which the home market would be by so much increased. This subject is at least one which should have attention.

TUPPER AND WILMOT.

Sir C. H. Tupper and his cheeky—not to say impertinent—letters are being roughly handled by the newspapers as well as by some of the salmon cannery themselves. In fact the latter are showing them up in pretty lively style. We do not wonder that the Minister and his deputy have no special desire to come this way and meet such men as Messrs. D. J. Munn and Thomas E. Ladner. The former very pertinently shows in regard to the disposal of the salmon offal that it is only just to expect the Government to devote at least a portion of the big surplus, over and above expenses, of the revenue derived from the fisheries of this Province, to the establishment of guano works. As is shown, each cannery cannot erect a factory to dispose of its own refuse, and what more natural

than that, the Government should undertake the work? Mr. Munn shows that except in British Columbia and Ontario the fisheries department expends in the different provinces more money by a very large sum upon the fisheries than it receives from that source. Last year, as is shown by the departmental report, the revenue from this Province was \$40,264 and the expenditure \$5,490, leaving a surplus of \$34,774. Where does that \$34,774 go? Have the people who contribute it no right to have a fair share of it expended among them, particularly when Mr. Wilmot, for he is apparently the great toad in the departmental puddle, says that the offal must not be dumped either into the salt water of the gulf or the fresh water of the river. Possibly, however, in view of the possibility of it being determined—as is more than probable—that the Dominion Government has no constitutional right to collect and appropriate the fees paid for fishing licenses in the various provinces, Sir Oliver Mowatt having brought the point to an issue before the Courts, it is the desire in the meantime to hang on to all possible receipts from this source. Then, in regard to the issue of licenses, Mr. Munn very forcibly exposes the wilfully false statements of Mr. Wilmot, and caps the climax by saying: "Furthermore, I suggest that if it will facilitate a settlement of differences between the fishing interests and the department, if it grieves them very much to think of the \$8,000 concession that Mr. Wilmot asserts was made over to the canneries this year, and which the canneries thrust down deep into their pockets, let me state that as far as I am concerned, if the department will adopt common sense as their guide in other matters affecting the industry, I shall be quite willing that no licenses be granted to canneries hereafter."

He adds, however, that if this be done, there are many deserving men who will be thrown out of work not having the means to equip and run fishing boats of their own. In the course of his letter, Mr. Thomas E. Ladner takes up another point of contention between the canners and the department, and after severely criticising what the department proposes to do and has really done, says:

"If Sir Charles were to set about building more hatcheries and thus maintain our salmon supply, I for one would have greater confidence in his good intentions. The fishing license was originally levied for the support of hatcheries, and this year some two thousand licenses were issued, which, at \$10 each, means \$20,000. Out of this \$20,000, the department supports 'one hatchery at an annual cost of less than twenty-six hundred dollars,' and I hardly suppose that the difference between these two amounts (\$17,400) goes for the maintenance of our

fishery inspector and the few subordinates under him. Why cannot more hatcheries be supported out of this direct taxation on the fisheries? or, failing that, why should not part of it be utilized in bonusing guano works, and thus settle the vexed offal question?"

Young Tupper and his man, Wilmot, are manifestly hit hard by both gentlemen, who very properly observe that it is the very height of presumption for Sir Charles Tupper or anyone else to sit in an office at Ottawa and profess to understand all about the fishery question without ever having visited the spot.

NORWEGIAN IMMIGRANTS.

There has recently arrived in this Province a pioneer party of eighty Norwegians, who represent over 300 persons. They have come to take advantage of the settlement terms offered by the Provincial Government and are emigrating from Crookston, Minnesota, to Bella Coola. The intention of the Government is to establish colonies of desirable immigrants on the available lands on the coast of the island and mainland. The general terms are that not less than thirty families shall form a settlement, each family to possess at least \$300 in cash on arrival. The government will grant a lease of 160 acres to each family, rent free, for five years. At the end of five years if improvements are made to the amount of \$5 per acre on the property, the government give the colonists a free crown grant. The government also engage to construct in each settlement of not less than thirty families a wagon road through the colony.

These people have arrived on the report of a minister who was sent out by them last year to pick out a spot suitable for settlement. They are a sturdy lot of people, used to pioneer life in Minnesota, Dakota and Wisconsin, and on Thursday will proceed north on the steamer Danube to their place of destination to prepare for their families who will follow in the spring. Another similar colony is already being formed, and it is hoped that before long much of the already surveyed lands of the Mainland and Island will be taken up by equally as eligible immigrants. As regards the present party, the promoters of the movement are under bonds that each head of a family possesses \$300 in cash on landing, but the average is said to be much higher. Quite a number have from \$500 to \$2,000, and one man sold out his property before he left for \$4,000. The intention of these people is to follow mixed farming and also develop the lumbering and fishing industries. Is there any probability of the crofter movement or something like it being resurrected, minus of course that element in it which appears to many to possess the elements of a not inconsiderable land grab?