

bought under the regulations laid down by Mr. Mills. We did nothing of the kind. At the time at which we purchased, Mr. Mills' regulations had been all abolished, and certain regulations adopted by hon. gentlemen opposite introduced.

Motion agreed to.

REPORTS OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON IMMIGRATION.

Mr. BLAKE, in moving for copies of all reports of the High Commissioner on the subject of immigration to Canada, not already brought down, said: We have heard something of the doings of the High Commissioner with respect to the transport of cattle from Canada to England, but as yet not much information has been vouchsafed to the House as to what has been done in regard to immigration to Canada since last Session. Two gentlemen have filled that office, and have dealt with the important subject of emigration to Canada, on which hon. gentlemen opposite were so inflated last Session; and with respect to which I was glad to hear the statement of the hon. Minister of Agriculture a short time ago in support of the statement of the hon. member for Glengarry (Mr. Macmaster) made during the debate on the Address, that there had been a large immigration to this country. We know that during this period negotiations of an important description with the Home Government, and with corporations and individuals who were discussing various plans for immigration on a large scale, have been progressing. Such, at all events, is our public information, and I cannot doubt, as was the duty of the last and the present High Commissioner, some reports have been sent to the Department, under whose instructions they have acted in this regard. They should come down—and come down early—and with this view I move the motion. Are there some such reports?

Mr. POPE. I do not know; I will bring them down if there are any.

Mr. BLAKE. I am sorry the reports of the High Commissioner are of such little consequence that the hon. Minister does not even know whether they exist or not.

Motion agreed to.

PERSONS ENTERING MANITOBA BY RAIL.

Mr. BLAKE moved for a statement of the number of persons entering Manitoba by rail, during each month of the last calendar year; and of the number of persons leaving Manitoba by rail during each such month; also, for copies of all correspondence, reports, data and statements on which are based the estimates made by the Government of the number of immigrants who have come from specified countries, and settled in each Province of Canada, and in the North-West Territories, during the year; and of the number of Canadians who have left each province or territory or the Dominion, during the year. He said: I do not propose to enter at any length into the grounds of this motion. I stated them briefly last year when I made a similar motion, to which the hon. gentleman acceded. The motion passed; but, as happened with some other motions to which the hon. gentleman alluded a moment ago, it was fruitless in any other result.

Mr. POPE. I told you it would be so at the time.

Mr. BLAKE. No. The hon. gentleman said he could not give much information, but he could give some, and I did not even get what he could give. The hon. gentleman stated there would be a difficulty—or at all events at some period during the Session he stated that—in getting the number of persons entering and leaving Manitoba by rail, and he promised he would make an effort to secure that information for the current year. I trust he has made that

effort, because I will repeat to-day what I have said on various occasions, that I dispute the accuracy of the calculations which he has made, and I dispute the accuracy of the data on which the calculations have been based with respect to immigration into Manitoba and the North-West. I stated that the hon. gentleman himself had resorted to a similar mode of ascertaining, approximately, the immigration into the United States from Canada, as that which I proposed he should resort to in obtaining his information in regard to immigration into the North-West. He did that for a purpose. For a purpose, he was able to ascertain the number of persons who had passed one way or the other by the great railway of the country—a particular point as to which there was a dispute. With respect to Manitoba and the North-West, the hon. gentleman's plan has been, as I understand it, to obtain a return from somebody who gets aboard the trains and is supposed to count the passengers, those who go in, and a certain percentage of deduction is made for those going out. With respect to the return of those who go in, I have conversed with several persons who have travelled to the North-West by train, and they have told me that on the occasion on which they travelled they did not discern this enquirer and the counting to which the hon. gentleman referred; and, therefore, I do not myself believe that it has taken place upon all occasions. I believe it is loose; that the plan does not accurately represent the number of those who have gone in; and if it turns out to hit, approximately, the number given by the railway returns, it will be the result of a happy guess or conjecture, rather than of a really accurate detailed account. Then with respect to the deduction made for those who go out. The hon. gentleman has persisted up to this year—I do not know what he will do this year—in assuming that 17 per cent. of those who have gone in is a proper calculation in order to arrive at the number who have left. This is based upon the supposed ascertained results of an early years when the movement of persons in and out was a very few thousands—I forget the number, but a number quite inadequate compared with recent numbers. It was before what was alluded to to-day, and so often in this House, by the First Minister and others, as "the boom," before the speculative period, before there was a very large number going in and out; and we all know that since that time many persons have gone into that country two or three times a year and returned. We know that a large number, even of those intending to settle, have gone into the country to prospect and have returned. We know that the calculation of 17 per cent. is wholly inadequate; and, therefore, even if you assume the calculation with regard to those going into the country to be correct, the deduction which the hon. gentleman has been making for the last two or three years is wholly inadequate, and so the results are inaccurate. For this reason it is I have been persevering for some time past in my efforts to obtain more accurate information with respect to those who actually have gone to settle in the North-West. I feel great interest in obtaining a return covering this information, for which, as I have said, I obtained an Order of the House last year, but without success, so far as obtaining the result of that Order. It is impossible to understand what the calculations of the Government are. It was only, I think, on 10th January, that a statement obviously official appeared in the Toronto organ of the Government, the *Mail* newspaper, giving the details of the movement of the immigration of the year, and stating it in the various details with the general result—I cannot say for a 1,000 or so, but if I rightly remember, a result of 110,000. Now, the movement he gives us to-day is 130,400, or 20,000 more. Of course, I do not know where the inaccuracy is, whether in the later or the earlier statement.

Mr. POPE. We gave you the returns we had at that time, and we give you the returns at the end of the year.