

the help they claim from the Department of the Interior, they would succeed in repatriating a much larger number.

I agree with my hon. friend from Labelle, that the Department of the Interior should induce the Roman Catholic clergymen belonging to the French Canadian race, to become agents for the Dominion of Canada in various towns and cities of the United States. I must say that there are no better Canadians in the Dominion of Canada to-day than the French Canadians who have been obliged to go to the United States. They live and earn their living under another flag; and yet, when we visit them, as it has been my happy lot, during the last ten or fifteen years, we find that they are as good Canadians as those who live in Canada. If the Department of the Interior would make arrangements with the clergymen, who I am pleased to say are always respected and have the full confidence of their flocks, and who are as good Canadians as they were before they emigrated, the country would greatly benefit by it.

I am happy to say that whenever we have made representations to the hon. the minister or to his deputy minister, Mr. Smart, we have been well received and have been well listened to.

Since we are speaking of French Canadian repatriation, I may just as well say a word about the movement which is set on foot to promote French immigration into Canada. Sir, no man is prouder than your humble servant, to see the immense concourse of people coming to-day from the British isles to the Dominion of Canada. I am pleased to see that people from Ireland, from Scotland, and from England are coming to this country, because I consider them the best class of settlers in any civilized land in the world. That they are coming in such vast numbers is due to the fact that this country has been well advertised on the other side for the last ten or fifteen years. It is due to the intelligent work done in England last year and the year previous by Mr. Smart, the deputy minister of the Interior, that we have this year thousands of immigrants coming from the British Isles. You have seen in the papers lately, thank God, that there is an Anglo-French entente cordiale. You have witnessed the visit of the President of the French Republic to England, and I am sure you have been pleased to learn how well the King of England was received in France. There is nothing that pleases us more than to see this entente cordiale between these two great nations from where our ancestors came. Well, Sir, if we do so much to bring into this country English immigrants, Scotch immigrants and Irish immigrants, let us do something to attract here that good immigrant from France, who is very economical, very industrious and very hard working. We

Mr. LEMIEUX.

have a few French colonies in the province of Quebec; and the other day, speaking with one of the western members, my hon. friend the member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis) he told me that the two most flourishing parishes in his constituency were parishes peopled by French colonies. But these people must be induced to come to this country. Some say that the French do not emigrate, that they are so happy to live in France that they do not care to go elsewhere. Well, Sir, reading the papers published in France, I find that every year thousands and thousands of Frenchmen emigrate to Madagascar, to the Argentine Republic, to Algeria, to Louisiana, and if they knew Canada, I am sure that they would come here in numbers. Do you not think something should be done to stimulate French immigration into Canada? Frenchmen, as you are aware, have special reasons to settle in this country. I believe, for instance, that if there were a French line established between France and Canada, it would be a great aid in promoting immigration. If literature were spread throughout northern and southern France, and an intelligent movement set on foot to stimulate immigration from that country, I am positive that the best class of Frenchmen would come to Canada.

Mr. SPROULE. What is Mr. Fabre doing there?

Mr. LEMIEUX. Mr. Fabre is getting old. He is residing in Paris, and he receives, I must say a very poor salary. Besides, Mr. Fabre is alone, and one man cannot do what ten or fifteen men can do. Yet, with limited means at his disposal, he has been an efficient representative of Canada.

Mr. SPROULE. He has not applied for any assistance.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Several times he has; he has applied for assistance during many years, and he has not received the help he should have. At all events, I think another system should be established. Mr. Fabre is a semi-ambassador in Paris, but he has not the time nor the means to go into what is called the province to stimulate emigration there. I think we should have in every department of France an intelligent agent, well au fait with the conditions in Canada, and I am sure that with proper inducements and proper literature distributed throughout that country, we could secure a good French immigration. I therefore hope the hon. minister will take into serious consideration the remarks which have been made this evening in reference to the French Canadian repatriation and French immigration. I am glad to be able to state that Mr. Smart, after visiting France and England last year, has come to the conclusion that the best immigrants Canada can have are the British and the French.