

in Council is instructed to send his reports to the Department of the Secretary of State. His correspondence generally takes place with the High Commissioner. His position, I must say, is a very peculiar one in this way: having once sent a report to the Minister of Agriculture direct, the Secretary of the High Commissioner informed him that he had to correspond direct with the office in London, that he was an officer of that office and that his correspondence would have to pass through it. However, by an Order in Council, as I have mentioned, his reports are sent to the Secretary of State's Department. Hon. gentlemen opposite will probably say that the fault lies with the Secretary of State in not having produced those reports. They were not ready for the report of the Secretary of State during this Session, but they will be laid before the House. I can tell hon. gentlemen opposite that before Concurrence I intend to bring down statistics of the work done, of the results attained and the results that might be attained if something more were done in that direction by the Immigration Department. I must say, and I express the feeling of many hon. members who have a right to speak on this subject, that Parliament might be more liberal towards Mr. Fabre and give more consideration to the importance of the office.

Mr. LAURIER. It matters very little, in my opinion, as to the officer to whom Mr. Fabre was to report, because I do not think his reports can show anything like substantial progress or substantial results. If Mr. Fabre acts in any capacity in Paris it is as immigration agent. My conviction is that, so far as immigration from France to this country is concerned, the money is lost and at least is a useless expenditure. It is a well-known fact that the French do not emigrate, and that the population of France is decreasing instead of increasing. If that be so, it affords conclusive evidence that all attempts to bring emigrants here must prove unavailing. If the population of France is decreasing, how can it be expected that the French people will leave their own country to go to any other country? France has its own colonies. It has had Algeria for forty years, and what are the results achieved? What are the results of the efforts which have been made in this direction? I confess I cannot see what they are; I cannot see that we have had anything like the immigration from France that we have been led to believe, excepting a few individuals coming out now and again. The hon. Secretary of State stated that several capitalists had come, asking for information with a view to investing in this country. It is true that several well-known French capitalists did come to this country, but if they did do so, they have returned to France.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. I am surprised to hear the hon. gentleman's statement, and I do not think he will be complimented by his countrymen in trying to decry the immigration which might be had from that country—immigration of the best possible class, and very desirable for the Province of Quebec in particular. I do not speak of the immigration which members of the late Government, and his friends, once brought into this country, socialists and communists, but I speak of such an immigration as Mr. Fabre is directing to this country, good mechanics, good farmers, and men of some means, immigration of the best possible kind. I am exceedingly surprised at his statements; I will take a note of them, and I am sure somebody else will do—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. Hon. gentlemen need not be surprised. My hon. friend has shown himself to be perfectly ignorant of what is passing in other countries, and especially of what is passing just on the other side of the 45th parallel. He says there can be no immigration from France, because the population is decreasing. Well, Sir, this is no sound

Mr. CHAPLEAU.

argument; the population of Ireland is decreasing, and does he say there is no immigration from that country? The hon. gentleman has not been studying the movement of European emigration. He says that there is no immigration from France, because the population is decreasing; but I say that if the population is decreasing, it would prove that somebody is leaving the country. He says that there is no immigration from France, because they can hardly supply their own colonies. Does he not know that there are hundreds of thousands of Frenchmen in the United States? He should know these facts from the returns of immigration of the different Consuls in New York, Baltimore, Chicago, New Orleans, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, and other places. The city of Los Angeles where I spent some time myself, has a population of 22,000, an important portion of which is French; of the eight directors of the Merchants and Farmers' Bank of that city, the leading bank in that district, no less than four of them are Frenchmen, commanding capital to the amount of \$700,000 or \$800,000. If he wants to see how this immigration movements is progressing, he should read *L'Economiste*; let him read the articles of M. Le Roy Beaulieu on the immigration to Buenos Ayres and the Argentine Republic, and he will see that French immigration is going on there by thousands every year. In Lower California alone there have been no less than 10,000 or 15,000 French emigrants who have settled there within the last twenty years. A gentleman whom my hon. friend knows, I believe, M. de Molinari, has written that, with moderate Government assistance, an exceedingly good and profitable immigration of the most desirable class of people could be had. We have had a small number of immigrants of that class into Canada, and the reason we have not had more is that the means have not been sufficient to bring them here. The Government of the Province of Quebec was not rich enough to pay the expenditure of a large emigration organization abroad, but out of the hundreds of thousands of dollars which is being expended by the Dominion Government, a considerable French immigration might be directed to this country. I tell my hon. friend that he might have known, as I stated before, that over 93,000 emigrants have left France by the one harbour of Havre, within the space of three or four years. Large numbers of immigrants are leaving Gascony, the region near Bordeaux and the Bay of Biscay, every year; the very best class of men, good farmers, hard working men, who would make a splendid population for any country—the Basques, who discovered America long before the discoveries which are known to history. From Normandy from Brittany, from the old French Flanders, we would have the best possible agricultural immigration. I have been informed on good authority that if proper means were taken to afford encouragement to that class of emigrants, so as to contend successfully with the work of the different ocean steamship companies who are inducing immigrants to settle in the United States, we would have—if we could secure immigration immediately from the French ports to Canada—we would have a large and valuable immigration. I do not want to do more for them than for desirable immigrants in other parts of the world; I do not want to blame the Government of which I am a member, but I say, that for the small means we have had at the disposal of the gentleman who represents the Dominion of Canada, with regard to emigration in France, good results have been obtained, and that better results may be expected. I say that certainly the small paltry sum of \$2,000 should not be grudged to the gentleman who in France occupies, in the esteem of the people, a position of which every French Canadian might be proud. Mr. Fabre is highly connected, not only in the literary world, but in the world of business. He has given information to the Legislature in France and the French Government, as well