

that they will speak English or French, or whatever language may be spoken in the part of the country in which they settle? English, no doubt, will be the language in the North-west Territories, for it is the language of the population, and their children will have the same interest in the country as those who are of Canadian birth. I say that the settlement of these people in the country is of immense consequence to us. I saw it stated in the papers of the North-west Territories,—and I have no doubt that it is a correct statement—that during the past autumn there have been 400,000 more acres turned over with the plough than in the previous year. That will represent this year a yield of 12,000,000 bushels of grain in addition to the crop of last year, if it should be an average yield. Does any man doubt that it is of immense consequence to those farmers who are engaged in this work to have aid of the population coming into the country? They can mutually benefit each other. It will contribute to the commerce of the country. It contributes to make the railways a profitable investment to those who have put their moneys into them, and it will contribute to the revenues of the country, and I say that it is of very great importance to the country that this immigration should not be impeded, hindered or discouraged. There were a few men in the North-west Territories who for a time spoke against the immigration of the Galicians, the Doukhobors and others. What was their business? They were ranchers. They did not want the country occupied near them. It interfered with their ranching operations. It was their interest that the country should remain unsettled, as it was unsettled under the jurisdiction of the Hudson's Bay Company before we went there at all. But that is not our interest, and I say it is of immense consequence to us, now that our opportunity has come for filling up the country, that we should, in every possible way, encourage its settlement. The United States, between the years 1830 and 1860 had an immense immigration from the continent of Europe and from the British islands of persons who were poor, many of them absolutely penniless, who had nothing except their inclination to labour to bring to the country, and they became a prosperous people. Their descendants to-

Hon. Mr. MILLS.

day are as thoroughly American as any other portion of the population. They are devoted to the cultivation of the soil, and numerous states in the valley of the Mississippi became settled and occupied during those thirty years that have enormously contributed to the prosperity of the republic. Now, our opportunity has come, we have such a territory now for settlement for an agricultural population as they had during the period that I have mentioned, and it would be indeed a great misfortune, a calamity to this country, if we did anything to turn away that tide of immigration, to misrepresent the population and discourage men who are industrious and anxious to work and to acquire a knowledge of our language and to become like ourselves. To discourage those people by describing them as paupers, or using any other phrase that is calculated to turn away the tide of immigration from us to the neighbouring republic would indeed be a very great misfortune to this country. Canada has been some time spoken of a species of fishing rod. The provinces are joined to each other by the ends, and they are stretched across the continent, having immense length but little depth. That might fairly represent Canada as it was thirty years ago. That does not represent Canada as it is becoming. Take our territories : begin at the 49th parallel, at the United States boundary, and you will find the settlement extending northward now for several hundred miles. This is no doubt as it should be. That will give us a sufficient depth to make this country perfectly capable of defending itself against any who might be disposed to adopt an aggressive policy towards us. What does our recent investigation show ? That when you cross the height of land north of the lakes and north of the Ottawa and the Saint Lawrence, you get into a fertile region again. We have, it is said by our geologists, both in Ontario and in Quebec, 30,000 square miles in each capable of being settled by an agricultural population. In fact the two provinces may be occupied and settled all the way northward to James Bay. That being so, it is of immense consequence, not merely that steps should be taken to secure a settlement of the North-west Territories, our prairie lands, but even where we have amongst our agricultural