

in eastern Canada; and it is not necessary in order to give that occupation that we should have a fiscal policy which is oppressive to the people who are actually furnishing the money to pay for the goods which are produced in eastern Canada. If my hon. friend desires that I should endeavour to prove that statement, I have simply to quote what he himself says. It is not necessary that the duty shall be raised to an excessive point for the purpose of furnishing labour for the artisan and mechanic of eastern Canada, because under the policy of this government, by the hon. gentleman's own statement, at this moment we require 10,000 mechanics in eastern Canada. So that my hon. friend has conclusively answered himself. He has conclusively shown that under the policy of this government, not only in western Canada but in eastern Canada, there is at the present time ample demand for labour at remunerative wages.

Just a word or two with regard to the action of the department. We are at present spending a large sum of money. The members of the committee will understand from the views I have expressed—I give my opinion for what it may be worth; it is the result of attention devoted to the subject for a number of years, and of communication with officers of the department who have been devoting themselves to the work, many of them exclusively, for a considerable number of years—that the work is being carried on as economically and effectively as it is possible for us to carry it on. The total expenditure for last year will aggregate, when the amount voted in the supplementary estimates is considered, \$650,000, or thereabouts, and we have received 125,000 immigrants. The cost per head therefore of the immigration which has come in is a trifle over \$5 per head. I think every person will admit that this is an extremely low cost when all things are considered. If hon. gentlemen will give any consideration at all, to the work done by the railway companies and other institutions in the western states, they will find that the figure which I have mentioned is an almost unprecedentedly low figure for the carrying on of work of that kind. If hon. members have listened to what I have said, they will have gathered further that I entertain the opinion that the money we are spending is being well expended, and that the results well repay us for that expenditure. For myself, I would have no hesitation in going further, and saying that if by doubling the expenditure we could double the number of people we are bringing in, it would be wise for us to do so, and there would be very little money expended by this government that would be more wisely expended. There is a point which has probably escaped attention in this connection, and which is worthy of attention by members on both sides of the House who have discussed this question. It is said that

we are constantly losing population in the older provinces. My hon. friend from Centre Toronto (Mr. Brock) said truly that most of the people who go from the older provinces do not go for the purpose of farming in the place to which they go. They leave, as I said last night, because they do not wish to follow an agricultural life. When we find a farmer who has been going to a college or collegiate institute, there is no use in sending an immigration agent to him. He knows all about life in Canada; but he desires to go somewhere else for the purpose of following a different line of occupation. We could do nothing to retain that man except by building up a larger market and furnishing him with a career which will induce him to remain in Canada.

Mr. BROCK. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. My hon. friend and I agree in that. My hon. friend thinks the duties should be raised for that purpose, and on that point I am afraid we cannot agree. But I think that he and I will agree that you must put the people on the producing land before you can have a market which will furnish the means of subsistence to a large and prosperous manufacturing community. My view therefore is that it is a wise policy for Canada to expend this money for immigration purposes. I am quite prepared to admit that my hon. friends, in going through the expenditure of \$500,000 or \$600,000, necessarily made under the supervision of a large number of agents in Europe, in the British isles, in Canada, and in the United States, will here and there find points for criticism, to which my attention ought possibly to be directed, with the object of making changes or improvements. I do not think it would be possible for so large a sum of money to be expended without there being points where criticism could be made. All I can say is that we have as good a system of inspection and examination and audit as it is possible for us to devise, with the knowledge we have of the matter at the present time; and whenever our attention is directed to any defects, we are anxious to remove them wherever it is possible to do so. But with all the defects that may be found in matters of detail from time to time, as there must be in cases of this kind, I take the ground that the general policy we are following is a wise policy, and that the general results attained have been satisfactory.

Mr. MONET. Before the minister concludes his remarks, will he tell me where the repatriation agents are located? Are they in the province of Quebec, and are they charged by the government to look after the repatriation of Canadians, more especially in one province?