

exceptionable occurrence; but two years' experience on the part of these interesting children of the prairie and forest, of whom the hon. gentleman has spoken in such winning terms, having convinced them that if they do not hunt they will find beef and bread supplied to them by the Government, the Government have become convinced by these two years' experience that they must now lay down as part of their policy the supplying for many years to come, or until they teach them farming, of food to the Indians. The hon. gentleman has also announced that we shall have, besides feeding and keeping them comfortable, to control them more extensively than before. That we will require to watch them: we will require to watch them by nearly doubling the Mounted Police Force, as well as to keep them happy and contented by supplying them with food. These are no doubt considerations and policies which may well be questioned by circumstances and facts which hon. gentlemen may bring forward later. But it is certainly a grave circumstance in connection with the development of the North-West, that at the same instant we should be called upon to feed the aboriginal population of that country. I am told there is very great danger of collisions requiring severe repressive measures, and the establishment, to a large extent, of a force to guard the settlers in that country. Now the Speech, while it does contain extended reference, as I have said, to the North-West, is also conspicuous for certain omissions in that direction. Last Session there was brought to this House, in its dying hours, when it was impossible to discuss measures effectually—when there were but a very few members present—a measure altering the condition of Manitoba, increasing its boundaries and area. We contended it would have been fit and proper to bring down a complete scheme at that time; we held it was obvious that as the readjustment of the boundaries of Manitoba, to the extent proposed, meant financial changes as well, and that it would be proper to bring down proposals which, by mutual arrangement between the Government of Manitoba and the Government of the Dominion, had been deemed fit for submission to the Legislature, which should settle the question. It seems to me sufficiently obvious that in increasing the boundaries of Manitoba in the present manner, we are leaving open the other important question, which I hope it is now intended to submit to this Legislature. Can it be that an arrangement has not yet been made? Can it be that the question is still open? Can it be that the policy of the Government, as to the altered financial arrangements with Manitoba is not yet, even at this day, determined? Else, why should we find no mention of that in the Speech? We find the glowing picture presented two years ago, as to the expected immigration from older lands, not now referred to. I had hoped very earnestly that the condition of things, and the views of the Administration on this subject, would have justified a very strong expression of opinion in the Speech from the Throne. The subject has been under the consideration of the Government for some years. It has been brought before us, in this manner, more than once. As I have said, two years ago, a very distinct statement was made; but to-day, with the exception of an allusion to the subject of immigration, in that paragraph which speaks of the extent of country in which immigrants have settled, we find no reference to the past or future. Now, there has been a very considerable influx of people to the North-West; but so far as the information available to the public goes, it seems clear that the immigration, so far, has been due in its largest proportions to the older Provinces of the Dominion, and that, as yet, we have received but a very slight portion of those fruits which we hoped to reap from the extraordinary immigration from the older countries. I do not regret, for my part, to see the people of the older Provinces go

Mr. BLAKE.

West. I rejoice that our citizens, from any part of this Dominion, should find it possible to improve their condition, and probably to improve the condition of this whole country, by removing from one part to the other. But I do say it is a serious question for those older Provinces that this emigration should proceed in the measure in which it has been proceeding, without a supply from other countries coming in, to some extent to remedy the deficiency in population which must so result. The consequences in Ontario, if the present state of things continue—if there be not a very considerable immigration in that Province from the older countries—must be, in my opinion, very serious to the owners of land in its rural districts. There is a very large emigration from that Province, and there is not, so far as I can see, an adequate immigration from older lands to counterbalance that decrease. Therefore it is that we, as residents of the older Provinces, as well as people interested in the fortunes of the North-West, have experienced what seems a feeling of disappointment at the results thus far; and the fact that the circumstances do not seem to warrant any statement on that subject in the Speech from the Throne is sufficiently significant. The proposal to divide the North-West into four districts may be a very proper one. I trust that, taking the various circumstances with reference to the extreme difficulty of saying what the centres of population will be—where most rapidly the country will be settled—the arrangements will be of such a character as may not require very much disturbance, in the case of changes due to the creation of more railways in that country, and to circumstances of which we are not now cognizant. The present expectations as to the centres of population may be falsified. While it may be tolerably easy to point to certain places in that country, which from their position and relation to lines of travel, frontiers, territories and rivers, will necessarily be centres of population, I hold it to be very difficult to make arrangements of a permanent character at this time. I am a little surprised, however, at one paragraph in the Speech. The Speech tells us, first of all, of the great attention that is required to be paid to the Indian population. The question of the Indian population is a burning one. It then tells us that the white population requires more protection; but unless I was deceived, I thought I saw quite lately the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West in the vicinity of this building. So he seems a very long way from his white and red subjects, though he knows they require so much attention. There is another omission in the Speech, which I also greatly regretted to find—that is, that we are not promised a measure for the adoption of a simple, easy, less expensive mode of transferring real property, such as was brought forward in the time of the late Government, and to which I have once or twice directed the attention of the Minister of the Interior. I say that if our expectations as to the rapid settlement of that country are in any measure realized, as we hope they will be, we can do no greater practical benefit for the future of that country than now, while as yet the lands are ungranted—while there is no complication of titles—than to adopt a system which, so far as our present notions are concerned, may seem to us almost revolutionary, but which might make the title to lands and the security in reference to title, and the possibility of transferring interests, greater than they are in the older Provinces by the present system, and which will confer on those who will settle in the North-West, benefits which, if you summed them up, would be almost incalculable. This is the time to make such a change, the time at which it can be done without the disturbance of any existing system. I repeat my views on this subject to the hon. the Minister of the Interior, because I feel that at no time can this scheme be accomplished so easily and with such good results as at present. The Speech refers very