

examine into the condition of the country, investigating our fiscal policy, and the capabilities of this being a cheap country to producers and a cheap country to live in. But I hold that when delegates are sent here, either if they come out at their own expense or at the cost of the Government, they have a duty to perform to the people of the old country, and that duty is to report upon the whole condition of the Dominion, both with respect to its soil, its fertility, its crops, the fiscal policy of the Government, and whether or not the people have to pay a larger, an excessive amount for all the goods they require for the household and for the agricultural implements. For all those who intend to emigrate do so with a view to bettering their condition, and when delegates are sent out, it is their duty to report as to whether they believe the whole conditions are favourable to emigrants to this colony. There is a very keen contest going on between the different colonies of Great Britain, and in fact between the civilized nations of the earth for immigrants, and among the matters affecting their decision are the capabilities of the country to produce cheaply; but it matters not what are our capabilities as regards fertile soil and other conditions, if this is a dear country to the producer, it is not a favourable field for emigrants. I hold that these delegates would not have been doing their duty to the people of the old country if they had not reported both on the fiscal policy of the Government and the effect of that policy as regards the markets for our producers, and whether or not admission to our natural market, which is close to us, is prevented by the fiscal policy of the Government. I hold that these matters should have engaged the attention of these delegates, and it was their duty to report on them when they returned to the old country. It is stated that the report has been in the hands of the Minister of Agriculture, but for some reason or other it has never been published and laid before the people. I hold we have a perfect right, after paying the expenses of these delegates, to know what reports they have sent in. If it is favourable, we have a right to know it; if it is unfavourable, we also have a right to know in what points it is unfavourable. We have had much discussion with regard to emigration, and this matter lies at the foundation of successful emigration, namely, what report the delegates visiting the Dominion make in respect to this country when they go back to the land from which they came. A rumour is afloat that these delegates have given utterance to their opinion of the fiscal policy of the Government, and that the Government consider they have nothing to do with that subject. I hold they have just as good a right to report on the fiscal policy of the Government and the effect it has on settlers, farmers and workmen, as upon any other point which could engage their attention. I hold that if they have reported in regard to markets from which we are shut out, we have a right to know the fact, and we have a right to know the opinion of these strangers, who came here for the purpose of subsequently sending out people to settle among us. We have a perfect right to know what their views are, and whether there is any existing evil that prevents immigrants from coming here, in order that it may be remedied. I hold that the Government are not performing their duty by withholding the report of

the farm delegates who visited the Lower Provinces. I understand they came at the request of the Nova Scotia Government, and subsequently visited Ontario and the North-West. If from their report it appears that the fiscal policy of the Government is preventing immigrants from coming here, I think it will be one of the best lessons the Government ever received with respect to the policy they have adopted. The Minister of Agriculture has a duty to perform, and that duty is, at the earliest possible date to lay these reports before the House. It has been rumoured that only one of the delegates sent in a report, and that the Minister has only seen one. I should like to know why the other delegates did not make reports, or whether such reports were of a character that would not be presented by the Government to the House and the country. We have a perfect right to know all these questions, whether they believe that this country is well fitted for the breeding of cattle for the old country, whether it is a good field for raising horses for the English market, and whether it is a land in which, in their opinion, agriculture can be profitably followed. In all likelihood the delegates have given their views of all these questions. They are gentlemen of intelligence and well acquainted with the agricultural capabilities of the British Isles, and no doubt they were well calculated to give a sound judgment on the condition of the Lower Provinces, as well as the localities visited in Ontario and the North-West. I think the Government made a mistake in policy in sending down a deputation from Ottawa to meet those gentlemen, especially when the meeting was brought about by the Premier of Nova Scotia in conjunction with the High Commissioner, and take charge of the delegates during the time they were visiting the Lower Provinces. It also appears that during the time they were in that province no persons in many of the localities they visited knew anything about their coming, except those who were delegated to attend them. When such delegates come to Canada the farmers all over the country in the different lines of agriculture ought to be notified, so that they can meet the delegates, discuss with them, show them their farms, explain their system of farming and stock raising, and as far as possible give them all the information in their power. As I understand it, quite the reverse of that was done in the Province of Nova Scotia, which was certainly an impolitic and improper course for the Government to pursue. I do hope the Minister of Agriculture will at the earliest possible moment lay these reports on the Table, so that we shall be able to judge for ourselves whether or not the statements which have gone abroad with respect to the views the delegates entertain is correct or incorrect. The Government could do no greater injury to themselves than to withhold this report, because we believe, to-day, that the views of the farmer delegates with regard to the fiscal policy of this country is one of the reasons why it has been withheld. Perhaps if we have the report before us, the reasons might not be so strong in this direction as we anticipate, so that the Government, in justice to themselves, in justice to the farm delegates, and in justice to the House of Commons, ought to let us know what these reports contain. The farmers all over this country ought to know whether or not these delegates reported favourably