

I had occasion to read a letter written in 1840 by Lord Sydenham, in which he spoke of the constant movement, somewhat accelerated by the events of 1837, towards the then more prosperous country to the south. I am inclined to think that movement started perhaps even before 1840. It must be borne in mind that in the rural sections there is always a surplus population, more especially in Quebec, where large families are the rule. One can easily visualize what happens when eight or ten sturdy boys attain manhood. They can no longer remain on their father's farm, and they leave to seek employment in industrial centres.

The drift towards the New England manufacturing centres was constant during the whole of the nineteenth century. No effort was made, by the offering of lands and financial help, to stem the tide and induce Canadians to remain in their native land. At first the exodus was hardly noticeable, but gradually it gained momentum. As thousands of Canadians from Quebec secured a fairly prosperous livelihood in the New England States, their relatives and friends at home became apprised of their improved condition. That explains how one successful emigrant would draw after him anywhere from five to ten of his friends from the same village.

My honourable friend has suggested a fairly drastic remedy. Apparently he would close our doors to further emigration to the United States.

Hon. Mr. SAUVE: No. I explained my proposals in the course of my speech, and if the honourable leader of the Government has had no time to read it, I would suggest that he do so at the first opportunity. I favour regulation.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: After reading his motion I take it for granted that, if possible, means should be employed to prevent the exodus. There are several ways in which people may be dissuaded from leaving their native land, but I think my honourable friend went so far as to suggest preventive measures. Only Russia, Germany and Italy have resorted to such an extreme course. Before they may leave their fatherland the nationals of those countries must receive official permission. But even there the prohibition is not for all time. I understand that Italy has relaxed, if not entirely withdrawn, its prohibition against emigration. No such prohibition can endure in a free country.

Our clergy in Quebec, realizing the danger in this steady drain of population, pleaded in vain. For a time Bishop Taché, of St. Boniface, appealed to all the hierarchy in Quebec to have them try to divert the southward flow

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

towards Manitoba. That suggestion was not received very sympathetically. Our clergy still hoped to retain their flocks. I believe that the attitude was a short-sighted one, and that if the people who subsequently left Quebec had become convinced of the advantages of migrating to the West we should have had no difficulty in retaining them in their native country.

Emigration to the south began in times when our farming community was not faring very well, but even during periods of prosperity the movement continued systematically. There was a time when our industrial workers moved into the United States in large numbers. When the Government at Washington established an immigration quota against European countries and Mexico, it placed no such restriction on immigration from Canada. As a result of the quota, salaries and wages reached their maximum and mechanics engaged in mass production were paid \$10, \$12 and \$15 a day. There was no comparable condition of prosperity in this country, yet, as honourable senators may be surprised to hear, in the thirty years between 1901 and 1931, in spite of that constant movement to the south from the rural and urban centres of Quebec, no fewer than 220 rural parishes were established in the province.

My honourable friend spoke of the meagre efforts made by governments towards repatriation. I believe he is gravely in error in that respect. As a matter of fact, the Department of Immigration started this work in 1889, but the results have not been very encouraging. The Statistical Year Book of Quebec gives the number of families and of persons repatriated between 1928 and 1934, and for the information of honourable members I append this table:

Years	Families	Persons
1928..	115	628
1929..	165	851
1930..	965	4,315
1931..	841	3,693
1932..	326	1,490
1933..	242	1,181
1934..	138	822
	2,792	12,980

I fear that to-day any further efforts towards repatriation are hopeless, for if our compatriots on the other side of the line are prosperous they will not return to Canada. Many of those immigrants live in towns and cities and are surrounded with grown-up families. Boys and girls brought up under urban conditions in the United States cannot be expected to take kindly to a rural life. In times of depression and distress they may think to better their condition in the Do-