

or Canadians who had emigrated to the United States, and who were endeavouring to find means to enable them to return to their native land, and some of them were desirous of settling in Manitoba. When in Manitoba he had seen French Canadians come there and look round to see whether they could not have a township or two townships in which to settle. Efforts were made among French Canadians who had settled in the United States to transplant themselves in colonies to Manitoba; societies had been formed among themselves for that purpose, some of which had gone so far as to offer bonuses to persons who would be foremost in going into that country and founding a colony. He asked the Government whether it would not be just as advantageous to have French Canadians now settled in the United States as immigrants to Manitoba as Menonites, and whether it would not be advisable to extend to those people who might desire to emigrate in bodies and establish colonies the same advantages offered to the Menonites.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said he could quite understand the desire expressed by the hon. member for Terrebonne, and it was a creditable one, to get back all our people who have gone from Canada to the United States, but he would see that very serious difficulties stood in the way of his proposals being carried out. The Government had considered carefully, and were still considering whether anything could be done in that direction. It was evident, however, that if we aided French Canadians settled in the New England states—for it was there that the French Canadians chiefly were—to go to Manitoba, and did not similarly aid those in the Province of Quebec or other Provinces, it would be easy for them to step over the line, and obtain the aid which they received because they were resident in the States. The chief object that had hitherto been kept in view by the Government in respect to immigration was to make the different countries of Europe the great field from which to draw our immigrants. If the Government once adopted the system indicated by the hon. member for Terrebonne it would lead to serious difficulty, because there could be no good reason why we should aid people on one side of what was practically an imaginary line separating our territory

*Mr. Masson.*

from a foreign country, and not aid those who were on the other side. The Government were, however, still considering this matter, and had taken some steps to ascertain as nearly as may be through semi-official agents at Boston and other places the number of Canadians that might reasonably be expected to take advantage of any offer in that direction.

Mr. MASSON thought his remarks must have been misunderstood. French Canadians would not go from the Eastern states of the Republic to Manitoba in order to come back to Canada.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said that it would be easy for residents in Quebec, who desired to go to Manitoba to step over the line into the New England States, and there they would become eligible to receive assistance.

Mr. MASSON asked if he was correctly informed that there were bodies of French-Canadians in the United States who had applied to the Government to assist them in obtaining one or two townships in Manitoba in which to settle. He wished to know what steps had been taken by the Government in regard thereto.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said he only knew of two cases. One was a party of Canadians which undertook to settle a township near St. Vincent, on the East side of the Red River, on certain conditions, and he understood these conditions had not been fulfilled. Only a very partial settlement had been made, and the colony would not accomplish what it had engaged to do. There is another colony, led by Mr. RALSTON, which was also a comparative failure, and the conditions will not be carried out by the body emigrating. He was not aware at present of any other society or body of settlers there, but he would make enquiries and inform the hon. gentleman on another day. He had himself recently seen a Nova Scotia gentleman who published a very able paper called the *American Canadian* in Boston, and had obtained a large amount of information from that gentleman in regard to Nova Scotians, New Brunswickers, and French Canadians resident in Boston. Everything that could fairly be done by the Government to secure the return of Canadians would be done.

Mr. TROW said that, having visited Manitoba, he could bear testimony to the