

THE SENATE

Thursday, May 7, 1868.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock. After routine,

Hon. Mr. Tessier moved, seconded by **Hon. Mr. Bourinot**, that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be laid before this House copies of the reports made by John Page, Esq., Engineer of the Public Works Department, on the subject of the deepening of Lake St. Peter, in virtue of an order in Council, made about the 1st of July, 1862?

Hon. Mr. Campbell said his hon. friend would remember that he (Mr. Campbell) had said the other day that though reports had been made the Government had received no final report.

Hon. Mr. Chapais said the report required was not completed, though considerable progress had been made with it. The engineer in charge, from a professional sense of duty to the public service, and to his own reputation, wished time to verify the soundings which had been made last fall. Still it is possible new soundings might discover some changes after the winter season. Hence the hon. mover would see that it was impossible under the circumstances to bring down the report asked for just now, but he assured the House no time would be lost, as they felt its importance for the shipping of the country.

Hon. Mr. Tessier regretted that the required information could not be furnished until after this Session, as the public are anxious to hear what progress has been made with this work.

The motion was then carried.

IMMIGRATION—ADDRESS.

Hon. Mr. Ryan moved, seconded by **Hon. Mr. Ross**, that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be laid before this House, copies of all correspondence which has taken place from the 1st of January last, to the present date, between the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture and the Immigrant Agents at Hamilton, Toronto, Kingston, Ottawa, Montreal, Sherbrooke, Quebec, St. John, N.B., Halifax, and any port or ports in Europe, having reference to the probable extent and character of the

immigration of 1868, as well as to the arrangements made and means provided or to be provided in aid and encouragement of such immigration.

Hon. Mr. Ryan said the subject of immigration was one which had always occupied a great deal of attention, not alone of the Legislature but of the country generally, and as this question was subject to new regulations, we should know how immigration to this country is affected by those regulations, and by the new system under which the Government of the country is administered. As he wished the House to obtain the fullest information in regard to immigration, and how it is to be fostered in this country, he would add to the resolution just read: "Also copies of any correspondence which has taken place between the Government of the Dominion and any of the Local Governments upon the same subject." He had mentioned the other day that the great attraction to induce immigrants to settle in the country, was that of having land to give them. The Dominion Government having no land, can make them no grants of land, that being in the possession of the Local Governments. Therefore it was important for us to know what steps the Dominion Government have taken in this matter, and to know whether the Local Governments are willing to co-operate with them in order to settle the country. He would suggest that as soon as the arrangements are completed for building the Intercolonial Railway—and we all presume that it will be built very shortly—inducements should be held out to immigrants to induce them to settle along that line. There is very good land along that line of railway, which will be at the disposal of the Local Governments, and they should make a provision that those who work for a certain term to the satisfaction of their employers, should be allowed to settle upon those lands upon very easy terms, in order to encourage immigration to the country. His object in making this motion was to learn whether any arrangements had been made with the Local Governments in regard to inducements being held out to promote immigration, and also to induce those who come from Europe, to remain and settle in Canada, instead of passing through to the United States. A great deal of the money granted in past years for the encouragement of immigration, had been unprofitably laid out in Quebec and other ports, instead of being distributed in such a way as would induce immigrants to settle in the country.

Hon. Mr. Chapais—The Government would grant the required correspondence most willingly, as the subject was one in which the whole country takes a deep interest. The Government wished to encourage a good class of immigrants to this country, and also to the Maritime Provinces. But the abuse by agents at the ports of Europe of the name of the Canadian Government was much to be deplored—poor immigrants would land at the port of Quebec with letters on them from agents telling them that the Government would send them on to their destination free of expense, thus deceiving these poor people, and in many instances inflicting great hardships on them. This evil should be guarded against in future as much as possible. The number of immigrants landing on our shores last season was greater by 7,000 than the previous year. But as the great bulk of them only passed through the country to join their friends in the west, this country derived little or no benefit from them. Wages were good in Canada, and all the necessaries of life much cheaper than in the United States; but there the public works always going on induced the flood of European immigration to run to that country. We here should use all our energies and exertions to attract foreign immigration and to prevent the emigration of *les enfants du sol*, who are daily leaving this country in crowds to find employment elsewhere. The Local Governments should bestir themselves also, and see to encourage the establishment of manufacture and the opening and development of the industrial resources of this great country. Grants of land along the line of the proposed Intercolonial railroad will tend much to attract population when these works commence this season. This Government will do all in its power to forward the object of immigration and settlement of our vast expanse of country, but much more onerous obligations rest with the Local Governments, who are the proper parties to carry out the proposed facilities for settling the public *domaine* of this Canada.

Hon. Mr. Macpherson said it was very true that their efforts to induce immigration had failed, but he thought those efforts were not well directed as they consisted mainly of an establishment at Quebec, and most of the immigrants who arrived there went on to the United States. In his opinion, the money spent upon that and similar establishments, and for paying the passage of immigrants, was not wisely spent. Instead of devoting this money to that purpose, they should have given those

immigrants lands to settle upon, and then we would have had a large immigration which would have added largely to the population of the country. While we set a high price upon our lands, and were making no efforts in Europe to get immigrants to come to our shores, the United States by national agents, and agents sent out by private enterprise, were making prodigious efforts for this purpose, and they were successful.

Hon. Mr. Chapais said that free lands were given to the settler, and work on the roads in Canada.

Hon. Mr. Macpherson said that was quite true, but those lands were of inferior quality, being in a rocky part of the country where the land was not suitable for agricultural purposes. The immigrant would not reside upon such land when he could get 150 acres of prairie land in the United States free. There was nothing attractive in the land given to the settler in Canada, and so soon as the road was constructed his wages ceased, and he left for the United States. That is not the policy which should be pursued by the Government; they should open up roads through the best lands of the country to induce immigrants to settle on them. Some years ago he (Mr. Macpherson) was on the continent of Europe, and he took some pains to look into the manner in which emigration was conducted there. He found at all the leading ports both consuls and shipping agents very busy in inducing men to emigrate to the United States. Numerous placards were posted up, offering free lands in the most attractive part of the United States to those who would emigrate, and the consuls were acting as emigration agents, as all should do. It was a great mistake made by this country in not having qualified emigration agents in Europe; if we had sent such agents there as were sent by the United States, the Minister of Immigration would not have had to make the mortifying statement which he has had to make to-day. The tide of immigration is now setting strongly towards the Western States, and it would be very difficult to change it. He agreed with the Minister of Agriculture, that they ought not to contribute largely, or at all, to pay the passage of people out of the country, for it would be far better to pay their passage into the country on condition of their remaining here. The Dominion Government had very little power to attract immigrants into the country since the management of the public land has passed into the hands of the Local Governments. All they can do now is to co-operate with the Local Governments in this

matter, and this they should do. He expressed his regret that the Minister of Agriculture had not seen fit to put himself into communication with those Governments and induce them to offer attractions to immigrants. If he had done so those Local Legislatures might have passed more liberal measures which would have brought immigrants into the country. We should do all we can to show that there is a real value in our wooded lands—that we have a salubrious climate—and that for the immigrant after the lapse of a reasonable time, it is a more desirable country than that which at first sight appears more attractive. If these advantages were put before the immigrants who arrive in this country, and they were informed that our taxation was so much lighter than the taxation in the United States, it might induce a great many of them to settle in this country.

Hon. Mr. Skead said it was to be regretted that so many people had emigrated from Canada to the United States, and he believed this was caused by the high rate of wages which were given, and the extensive public works which were carried on there. He was happy to inform the House that a reaction had taken place, and thousands of those young men who had gone to the United States, have been coming back for the past three months faster than they went away. He thought the Government, instead of delaying the construction of the Intercolonial Railway, should commence it as soon as possible, in order to give employment to the people and induce immigrants to settle in the country. It was the employment given in constructing this Canal to Kingston that settled this section of the country, and the same results would attend the construction of public works in other sections of the country. He then referred to the advantages to be derived from opening up the far west in regard to fostering trade, settling the country and developing its resources. He said they had extensive prairie lands, but he thought a mistake had been made by the framers of the Confederation Act in putting those lands in the hands of the Local Governments. He thought the Government should use their best efforts to induce agricultural labourers to settle in the country, as they were wanted more than mechanics, who would find their own way here. He said the wages of an agricultural labourer would average five pounds a month, or fifty pounds a year and found, yet notwithstanding the high rate of wages immigrants are induced by United States agents at Quebec to go on to that country. They sent these immigrants to the far

west at our expense, and then took them across to the United States. We should do all we can to keep them in this country, and constant public works to give them employment. After working a few years they will become settlers and if we give them land for nothing it will be the best investment the Government can make in the country.

Hon. Mr. Wilmot said it was beyond anything he knew in his experience for farm labourers to get £50 a year and found, as had been said by his hon. friend. He thought farmers who paid that sum must manage their affairs with a great deal of economy if they could keep out of debt. It unfortunately happened that our mechanics in New Brunswick were going to the United States in order to get better wages. What the Hon. Minister of Agriculture had said was certainly true, that we had better try to keep our young men in the country before we try to get them from abroad. He doubted whether it was for the interest of this country to expend a large amount of borrowed money to carry on unproductive public works. So far as his experience in New Brunswick went they did not get the workmen on railways to settle the country. They had constructed a railway upwards of one hundred miles in length, but they scarcely got one of those labourers to settle along the line. The construction of public works would cause a very large permanent debt on which we would have to pay a large amount of interest, therefore they should exercise some caution in running the country in debt in order to induce immigration to the country.

Hon. Mr. Bureau said that one of the great reasons for the tide of immigration setting in for the United States was the fact that they had always a number of public works on hand, and even the excitement consequent on the late war attracted immigrants to their shores. We should take advantage of our proposed public works, and encourage settlers to commence on our wild lands along the lines of these works. Also every facility should be given for manufacturing in a climate like ours, when agricultural operations were suspended about half of the year. Consequently people were unable to earn their livelihood at outdoor employment. We should turn our attention also to the opening up of new markets for our manufactories. It was lamentable to see the exodus of the youth of Canada leaving daily in droves for the States. Many of the immigrants arriving in this

country were unsuited for the branch of labour on which they entered, and then failed and got discouraged themselves and disheartened others. In the agricultural pursuits the long, severe winter here made a change in the system of farming necessary, and before they became acquainted with the country and its climate they wished to go farther west, and start anew in the neighbouring Republic. He hoped the Government would devote their best energies to retaining the population we have got in the country, and hold out inducements to the best class of immigrants to settle amongst us.

Hon. Mr. Reesor thought the whole system of immigration as conducted for a number of years by the Bureau of Agriculture, in connection with the old Canadian Government, was wrong. They should not have taken the matter in hand, as they could not possibly so well understand it, as people who were interested in bringing immigrants into the country. They could not expend money in bringing immigrants in, as well as individuals could, but they having taken the matter up everything was left under their management. The result has been that in many instances parties were induced to come to the country, and after their arrival they could not find employment. The effect of this was worse than if they had never been induced to come out at all, because they used all their influence to prevent their friends coming to this country. Those parties remained out of employment for a time here, and then went to the United States, and in writing home to their friends they would naturally write everything that was discouraging in regard to Canada, and everything in favour of the United States. Those lands which were given to settlers were totally unfit for settlement, or for a man to make a living upon. They were situated one hundred miles from a market, and two thirds of the land was so stony that it was unfit for cultivation in the ordinary way. Immigration should follow its natural channels, and if it is connected with the affairs of the country as it ought to be, and proper encouragement given to agriculture, manufactories, and to the trade of the country, we would find immigration flowing in as rapidly as we would find employment, or a good field for them to invest their capital or labour. That would be better than to spend \$50,000 a year to encourage immigrants to come into the country. The Minister of Agriculture says this year the estimate for that purpose is only \$36,000, but he (Mr. Reesor) thought it was like throwing so

much money away. If there was any money to be spent, let it be spent by the Local Governments, who can more directly control the work, and point out the best way this capital can be invested. Even then very little money need be expended, if proper inducements are held out for the settlement of lands and proper encouragement given to manufactories. There were some unnecessary changes made in the tariff this present Session, which must have the effect of inducing some who have been employed in this country to seek employment elsewhere. He had seen several letters this present week from parties who said they would have to close their woollen manufactories in consequence of the duty which was placed upon fine wool. Our farmers find it more profitable to produce long wool, which is greatly in demand for manufacturing purposes in the United States. While the American farmer does not produce the kind of crops that would produce this long wool, he cultivates the kind of crops that will maintain fine wool, therefore placing a duty upon it, prevents its being manufactured in this country. We cannot have a large population unless we have something for our people to do, for it would be far better to do without them than not to have labor for them. It is only so fast as we can have railroads opened up into the interior of the country, and manufactories to afford employment, that we need desire their immigrants to come into the country. He certainly thought that the expenditure of this money to induce immigrants to come in was a waste of it, particularly as those who had the management of it did not understand what class of immigrants we require. We do not find the United States Government voting an immense sum of money yearly to draw immigrants to that country. They simply manage their affairs to encourage productive industry, whether in manufactories, railways, canals, or the cultivation of the soil, and this furnishes an inducement for people of other countries to settle amongst them.

Hon. Mr. Ferrier hoped the Government would soon see their way to commence operations on the different public works of the Dominion, and that they would give free grants of land along the line of the Intercolonial Railway, which would necessarily attract a large class of the best description of immigrants into the country. Our Government should take measures to prevent so many young French Canadians, of great promise and usefulness, leaving the Province of Quebec daily, as we now see on all the public

outlets of the country, and settling down in the United States. These young men can work well on railroads, or on new lands. The projected railroad works and the fortifications should be put under contract at once, and stem this tide of emigration to the States, and encourage and promote immigration from the countries of Europe to our shores. There was no time to lose, as the evil was gaining ground rapidly. When we once lose this class of settlers we can never again induce them to return—hence the urgency of some immediate active measures being adopted to remedy this deplorable state of affairs.

Hon. Mr. Wark said, as a great part of the Intercolonial railway would be built through New Brunswick, he would state that their Local Legislature had passed a bill authorizing the Government to grant land to settlers for one shilling an acre. No one could ask for land cheaper than to get one hundred acres for \$20.

Hon. Mr. McCully said his hon. friend (Mr. Ferrier) spoke as if the Intercolonial railway was not to be under contract at all, but that the policy of the Government was to have this road built by day work. He (Mr. McCully) had never understood that that was the intention of the Government; if it was it would create a very great sensation.

Hon. Mr. Campbell—No, it is not the intention.

Hon. Mr. McCully remarked his hon. friend had said "the Government were going to build the road under Commissioners," and also remarked, that heretofore large contracts had been let, as though it was not the intention to let the present road by contract. He (Mr. McCully) knew of a very wealthy company from New York, who were waiting to make their tenders for contracts on that line.

Hon. Mr. Ferrier said he did not intimate that the road would not be built by contract, but he spoke of each of the four or five Commissioners taking a separate portion of the road to superintend, and this is what they should do.

Hon. Mr. Simpson would like to get information from some of the hon. members, where this valuable Government land was to be found. When he was young he had tried for several years to find a good tract of land to settle upon, and when at last he did purchase a tract, he found he had a hard bargain, for it was all rock. His hon. friend had spoken of

there being good land in the region of Lake Huron, but he went up to the head of Lake Huron last year and remained there a week, but he did not see this good land, and he would like to be put in possession of information as to where it was. He had there met Indians from the Red River settlement, and from all the information he could get, he could not find a spot yet where he could recommend a son of his, or even a servant, to go and make a home. He had been trying for several years to find a suitable place where immigrants could be asked to go and settle, but he had been unsuccessful. He had been in localities where companies owned whole townships, where the settlers had left, because they could not live there, the soil not being anything but rock. We have very fine lands in Upper Canada; we have the Western Peninsula which contains very valuable land, but it is all taken up, and you will now have to pay speculators \$15 per acre for land that cost them only \$1.50 per acre. Our farmers were leaving Canada and going to the West because no encouragement is given to the industrial resources of the country, and while we encourage one immigrant to come in we allow ten of our intelligent young men to leave and find a home in the United States.

Hon. Mr. Skead remarked that his hon. friend had told them that he had been to the head of Lake Superior to look for good land. He (Mr. Skead) would recommend him when looking for good land not to follow the lake shores, but to go back in the interior of the country. He then went on to mention tracts of land which were of superior quality to any land in the United States.

The motion was then adopted.

A message was received from the House of Commons with a Bill intituled: "An Act to amend an Act respecting the Statutes of Canada." Read a first time, and second reading ordered for to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. Benson wished to call the attention of the House to a report of the dredging of the old channel through Lake St. Clair by the American Government, and proposed to ask to-morrow whether the Dominion Government had taken, or intended to take, any measures to secure the use of that channel for Canadian vessels.

SUBSTITUTION OF DOMINION NOTES FOR BANK NOTES

Hon. Mr. Campbell moved the second reading of the Bill to enable Banks in any part of