

Northwest, as the government of this Dominion might be expected to do. Let us consider for a moment what has been the trend and object of the immigration policy of the present administration during the last four or five years. It is a complaint in some of the eastern provinces, as I personally know, that the money which has been expended on immigration by the government of Canada during the past four or five years has been expended practically altogether in the interest of the Northwest Territories and for the purpose of attracting immigration to those portions of the country. I am not for the moment concerned with discussing the question as to whether that complaint is well founded. As a matter of fact we know that the efforts of the government, if they had any result at all, have resulted in attracting immigration to the Northwest Territories rather than to other portions of the country. I am inclined to think that the immigration to the Northwest Territories has been the result, not so much of any efforts on the part of the government or of its officials, as of the advertisements which the Northwest Territories have received by reason of the splendid crops which have been raised in that country, and by reason of the enormous amounts of wheat it has sent forth to the markets of the world. But if the immigration which has come to Canada during the past four or five years has come chiefly to the Northwest Territories, if an expenditure of \$600,000 or \$700,000 is to be made annually for the purpose of keeping up or possibly of increasing that immigration, is it to be considered that the people of the Northwest are likely to embark upon any policy which would have the result of deterring immigrants from coming into that country? We are told, I think by my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior, certainly by other gentlemen, that an immigrant going into the Northwest is not of value so much to the Northwest as he is to the people of Canada as a whole. I would not be inclined to look at the matter from that standpoint. I would think that when you send into the new province of Alberta for example 100,000 or 150,000 immigrants each year, the settlement and development of the country thus created must be a very potent factor in increasing the value of the possessions of the people of the Northwest who are already settled there. There cannot, it seems to me, be any doubt about that. It is quite true that that immigration may be a source of increased expenditure to the government of the new provinces, and for that reason some provision must be made for such increased expenditure. But to say that an immigration of 100,000 or 150,000 annually is not of benefit to the people of the Northwest Territories, seems to me to arrive in short at this conclusion, that it is not the interest of the people of the

Northwest that there should be any more immigration into that country. That is the logical result of it, and that is a conclusion, I am sure, that no one of us would concur in. Then if I have made my premise good that the people of the Northwest of Canada are interested not only equally with the rest of Canada, but to a far greater extent than the rest of Canada, in attracting immigration to that country, in having it opened up and settled, then surely we might reasonably arrive at the conclusion that the people of the Northwest, through their representatives in their legislature, would not embark upon any policy or undertake any action which would be inconsistent with the best interests of the country viewed from the standpoint to which I have just alluded. Therefore it seems to me that so far as that particular aspect of the case is concerned, the government have not founded their policy upon good and substantial grounds in declaring that these lands shall continue to be administered and controlled by the Dominion as a whole.

And in that connection I might point out to the gentlemen who sit on the Treasury benches the words of the Minister of the Interior, words it is true, uttered not exactly in this connection, but equally apt and equally appropriate to this occasion. That hon. gentleman said that in his opinion the government of Canada should lose no time in ridding itself of the control and administration of distant territory—and for very good reason. Does any one for a moment contend that the people of the Northwest Territories are less capable of dealing with their own lands than the people of Ontario, Quebec or the maritime provinces? Is there any special advantage or reason in making it necessary that the people of the Northwest Territories should come to Ottawa or send to Ottawa for the purpose of dealing with their lands, their mines, their minerals, or their timber? For what reason should the people in the Northwest Territories, 2,500 miles away from Ottawa, be obliged to have these matters dealt with at the capital of the Dominion instead of by their own officials at their own provincial capital. For what reason should these matters be considered by 215 men in the House of Commons of whom only a small proportion come from the west, rather than by the people of the province itself in their own legislature every one of whom has an intimate personal knowledge of the local affairs of that country? For all these reasons it seems to me that the policy upon which the government has entered is a mistaken policy, and one which is not in the interests either of the people of the Northwest Territories, the people of the new provinces, or the people of Canada as a whole. Then my hon. friend the Prime Minister alluded to the example of the United States. I think some hon. gentleman from the Northwest