

ment for us that we should get a cash subsidy and have the Dominion still administer these lands in this way than that we should depend on the lands for our revenue, and thereby be driven to administer them, as our friends on the other side seem to persist they should be administered, for purposes of revenue. We had that principle in the west too long, and we do not want it any more.

Mr. BENNETT. I happened to be in the Northwest a couple of years ago, when the leader of the opposition held a series of public meetings throughout that country, and I must say that this question of the ownership of public lands attracted a great deal of attention at the different meetings, and if at these meetings the arguments advanced by the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) and those advanced by the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) in this House had been presented, I think that my friend from North Toronto (Mr. Foster) would have scored rather heavily on the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver). As I understand it, and I have listened very carefully to the Minister of the Interior, he bases the claim that the Dominion should still hold the lands on two important points. The first one is the policy that more money was gained by the Dominion as a whole than by these provinces from the introduction of settlers into that country. Now, if that is a good argument, it is not one that was relied upon by the ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), for this reason, that a settler in the Northwest, if you are going to look only at what you get out of him in the way of customs duties, would be no more valuable than a settler in Ontario. I have here an atlas published by the Department of the Interior, 'Geography of the Dominion of Canada,' which deals largely with Western Canada. Out of sixty odd pages, nearly all are devoted to the Northwest country, and not a plea is advanced asking people to come into the old provinces other than the west. This is rather a reflection on the province of Ontario, because hon. gentlemen opposite will remember that when the Grand Trunk Pacific Bill was before the House one of the greatest pleas that was advanced for the taking up of that measure by this parliament was the fact that we had in Ontario a vast area known as the clay belt, which was one of the greatest assets in the whole Dominion, and the ministers from Ontario upheld their position by continually referring to that great asset of Ontario, and yet the ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) apparently in this atlas pays little or no attention to that, so that his view was that the asset which the country desired was not a settler from whom to draw customs duties, but rather it was that a settler should come into the country, become part of the country, raise grain and other products, send these out of the country and

in return bring back the money and spend that money among our own people, and I think that is the great basis of success, not only of this province, but of the whole Dominion, or any part or portion of it. The next point the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) took was on the question of immigration, that immigration could be more successfully handled and induced by the department over which he presides than by provincial departments. It would be very easy for any province to imitate the methods which the Department of the Interior has employed to induce that immigration. In the first place, I think that if they had left politics out of this matter to a great extent it would have been much better. One of the greatest experiments for inducing settlers to come to this country from England was the sending of a number of settlers from Manitoba and the Northwest to the old country who lectured at different points and endeavoured to persuade the people that this was a desirable field for immigration. I have no fault to find with that; I think it was an admirable plan. These were men speaking from actual experience, and I believe no better system could have been pursued in the old country than that. It was asserted at that time that these lecturers were chiefly recruited from the ranks of hon. gentlemen opposite. Be that as it may, I think that if the provinces had the handling of a similar line of scheme they could do it better than the Dominion, but the fact is, as pointed out by the hon. member for North Toronto, settlement has gone in there and the government could not have prevented it. This administration have had, according to this atlas, about a dozen immigration agents in the United States; I notice the names here of some gentlemen who were known to me personally. These were stationed at Spokane and at one point and another in the United States. We all know that years ago settlers went from Ontario to the Dakotas, and settled there and in Minnesota, and the reports they made induced other settlers to go from Ontario to these states. I know that from the township of Tiny, in Simcoe county, where there is a large French Canadian settlement, a large number of men, twenty-five or thirty years ago, went to these states, and by reason of the fact that they were successful, they led others of their friends in the same direction.

How much more difficult is it to attract immigrants from Ontario and the older provinces into our Territories, than to induce them to come from the Dakotas and the adjoining states. There was only an imaginary boundary between Canada and the United States; these American farmers knew they had been successful in the States where conditions similar to those in Canada existed; they knew their lands in the United States could be sold at a high price and they knew that the terms on which they