

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I only mentioned that because one gentleman from the Territories pointed out a danger from that source which I did not think existed more than would exist here.

Mr. OLIVER. Probably not. I can only repeat that the Dominion government under the necessity of the case, under our system of confederation, necessarily has a greater interest in securing the establishment of a settler upon land in the Northwest than the provincial government has. As I understand it the Dominion revenue is principally derived from customs and excise, and each individual in the country contributes on an average about \$8 or \$40 per year for a family of five. I do not know that these figures are exactly correct but they will do for the purpose of comparison. When you consider the different expenditures of those settled on lands in the Northwest as compared with the dwellers in eastern cities, I think it will be admitted that a family in the Northwest Territories is worth a great deal more than \$40 per year to the Dominion revenue. I would be inclined to think that such a settler's family established on their land would be worth perhaps \$100 per year instead of \$40. To the provincial revenue they are worth absolutely nothing; the province does not levy direct taxation upon these settlers. It is true that a school district or a local improvement district may be organized and the settlers may contribute to them by direct taxation, but under the system that has prevailed so far, the establishment of a school district or a local improvement district does not mean relief to the provincial treasury. Every group of settlers coming into the Territories may be taken to mean the establishment of a new school district and local improvement district, which in turn means a direct charge upon the provincial government just as their settlement means a direct contribution of the Dominion treasury. The local government is consequently not in the same position to derive revenue from the influx of settlers that the Dominion government is, and therefore it cannot afford to spend money in attracting settlers. The Dominion government for a number of years has expended about a million dollars a year to secure an influx of immigrants, and no provincial government would be in a position to make such an expenditure because there is no source from which, according to our system of confederation, the provincial government could acquire a compensating amount in revenue. The influx of settlers means increased revenue to the Dominion, irrespective of the value of the land. The Dominion government can well afford to spend large sums in attracting the attention of prospective immigrants and in providing for the security of life and

property throughout these Territories, which has a very important bearing upon the question of immigration and which at present entails an expenditure of about half a million dollars per year. As a pure matter of business, as the plainest and simplest business transaction, if we expect to have inducements held out to people to settle on our vacant lands, and if we expect to have law and order maintained, there is no question but that we have better grounds for looking to the Dominion authorities than to the provincial authorities. If we do not reach that conclusion by any other process we might very well reach it by looking at the conditions in the various provinces. British Columbia has a very large land area which is under the control and administration of the province, but so far as I know, within recent years British Columbia has not spent a dollar in attracting immigration to that province. The province of Ontario has a vast area of vacant land, and I do not know that Ontario has spent a dollar in attracting immigrants within recent years. The same may be said of Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, all of which provinces own their own lands. The reason for this is that the provinces cannot afford to do so; there is not enough in it for these provincial governments. The interests of the entire Dominion depend upon the successful filling up of these prairies with desirable settlers and neither the Dominion nor any interest in the Dominion can afford to place the responsibility in hands other than those best fitted by circumstances to discharge that responsibility. It is not by reason of any greater business ability, or any greater honesty, but because the Dominion gets \$40 revenue per family while the provincial government is billed with \$20 say, annually of additional expense for each family. Another feature of the case is this. The leader of the opposition has said, and said truly, that the influx of settlers increases the value of the land and that the increased value of the land is of benefit to the province. But, we cannot have an influx of settlers unless we take means to secure it, and the success of the immigration policy is due mainly to the fact that the settlers have been able to get free lands. We send immigration agents to different parts of the world; we supply them with literature and they give information to the best of their ability, and there are no doubt good crops in that country. These factors are a consideration in securing immigration, but the main consideration is the free grant of land. It is the Dominion which can afford to give the land away and not the province. The increase in the value of the land which benefits the province and the people already in it, comes from the general influx of immigrants which is attracted, not by the lands which directly receive the increase of value by the coming in of the