

that I have all the wisdom in the world, and whilst I have outlined these few suggestions as to what I think might have been done. I dare say there are gentlemen on each side of the House who will find weak spots in them; but there is a way by which the early years of these provinces could be tided over and they could be set out on their great life race with a much more magnificent provision for their yearly expenditures than they now get under these Bills, and that is by endowing them with the lands. With reference to immigration I was sorry to hear the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver)—I know he did not mean it in his heart—express the view that every man who came as a settler to the Northwest was really a load on the province. You should not say that out loud. You may think it in your own heart, but keep it behind doors, because it is not politic to say to these settlers: Every one of you is a burden to us; you make us pay out \$20 a year, and we would not have to pay that if you had not come. I do not believe that the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) really thinks that but he should not say it.

Mr. SCOTT. Has my hon. friend ever glanced over the communications from the Northwest government to this government within recent years?

Mr. FOSTER. Yes I have, and I have listened to my hon. friend reading the minutes of council of 1884. I do not suppose he has any great reverence for the authorities he read. These are all nice things for an argument; they may be useful in a debating school; they may be pitched at an opponent so as to give warrant for saying to him: I have floored you. But after all can we not come down to the principle which should guide us. I have not argued this question from a party point of view. There is nothing in my argument which I intended to be taken in that spirit. What I want is that we should do the very best we can by these great provinces. I want them to have for all the years of their future the best provisions we can give them. With regard to that immigrant, I think he is of infinitely more use to your new provinces than to the Dominion. True he pays his customs tax; and if he be liberal in his eating and drinking and smoking, he pays some excise taxes too. But how small a proportion that is to the yearly toil he is putting into his land as a citizen of your province, adding to it two-fold, four-fold, twenty-fold, becoming a citizen who is a member of your society, who keeps up your schools and your churches, who does for himself and his family what is absolutely necessary to make a country great, who makes of himself and his family, reputable, honourable, moral, religious and progressive citizens. If that immigrant is worth \$8 a year to the Dominion from a money point of view, he is worth, from all the best points

of view, eighty times that to the province in which he builds his home, raises his family and rears citizens for the state. So we must not look at the question merely from the point of view of dollars and cents. But there is enough in it in dollars and cents to make the Dominion government still do its duty in the matter of immigration, even though these lands are given over to the provinces. I would not say that the Dominion government should not continue its immigration work in a reasonable and moderate way. I believe that every year from this out less will have to be spent to bring immigrants to Canada, and not many years will pass before this extraordinary expenditure may all be stopped. The men and women who will be your immigration agents will be those who have gone out to that country, who have made themselves homes there and who have spread the news of what they have done to the great outside portions of the world from which they came. Every year there will be less necessity for this immense expenditure until within a comparatively short period we will be where the United States is to-day, and instead of spending a dollar to get people to come to the country we will have to spend money to regulate the stream of immigration. There is no reason for the Dominion government giving up its efforts in the way of immigration; and the argument of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) has not affected me in the least, regarding the likelihood of the local governments not encouraging immigration. Why should not the local governments want to get settlers into that country? In order to build up the country you must have settlers. And these provinces propose to go ahead and therefore will be in sympathy with all well ordered immigration. Surely the people living in the atmosphere of the Northwest, who have been born and brought up there, or have lived there a number of years and are right on the spot, will know better what kind of immigrants they want, where to place them, and how to deal with them, than we who come here from all ends of the Dominion, and the majority of whom have never lived in the Northwest. It is impossible for a man born and brought up in Nova Scotia, and who has never seen the western prairies, to form any adequate idea of that country. A man requires to have visited it often or to have lived there, or to have been born and have grown up there, to appreciate it properly. Why should there be any clash between the Dominion and a well ordered province, in directing the stream of immigration. There could not be, because men are sensible and reasonable in the west as well as here. My hon. friend from Hamilton (Mr. Barker) gave a very good legal reason why, if it were absolutely necessary, there should not be conflicting laws with reference to immigration. We have not heard a really good argument