

pectors that are doing business in that vast country. They are surrounded by the barnacles that are sticking to these land offices like barnacles to a ship, who are looking for a rake-off, and I say that under these circumstances justice cannot be done. There are in that country hundreds and thousands of this class of men who are becoming rich year after year at the expense of the country. Large tracts of land are sold to speculators for very small sums. There is a condition that they have to settle so much land, but this is not always carried out. Different arrangements are made and the result is that the country is suffering because they are not settling the land to the extent that it should be settled, and that it would be if the land were in the hands of the provinces. I venture to say that there is to-day a state of corruption in that country that could not exist for one day if the lands were in the hands of the provinces. I venture to say, and in this I speak whereof I know, that if a commission was issued and if an examination were made, it would be found that the state of affairs is much worse up there than I have described it. It is preventing settlement, it is preventing people from going in there, it is preventing men who are prepared to invest their money in endeavouring to open up that country from making the ventures which they otherwise would make. One of the strongest claims that we have heard put forward by hon. gentlemen opposite is that they should hold these lands in order that they may control the immigration policy. I submit that if there is one branch of the administration which these provinces should have in their own hands, it is immigration. We know that immigration may prove a curse or a blessing. If we have immigrants coming into this country who are not desirable, if we have a great many immigrants who will not make good citizens, who are physically or otherwise unfit to undertake the duties of citizenship and who are not prepared to earn their own livelihood, then I say these immigrants will prove a curse rather than a blessing. It is a regrettable circumstance that we have had so many immigrants coming into this country who are utterly unfit to earn a livelihood. Many of them refuse to become citizens, and I submit that an immigrant, let him come from whatever country he may, if he is not prepared to become a full-fledged citizen and to fight the battles of this country if needs be, is not a person that any country should desire to bring in. It is a remarkable fact that a large class of these immigrants have been brought into this country on more advantageous terms than those granted to settlers from eastern Canada. I presume that one of the reasons why such great interest is taken in this Bill in the eastern provinces is that the people residing in this part of the country

Mr. BARR.

have relatives in the west, that many of them have their sons and daughters up there, worthy sons of the noble sires of Ontario, Quebec and the different provinces of this Dominion, but notwithstanding this fact foreigners and others have been accorded advantages which Canadian settlers cannot obtain in that new land. That is a state of affairs, which, I submit, should not exist. According to the returns of the last year, we brought into this country 134,223 immigrants, of whom 17,055 were under twelve years of age. We paid for the inspection of these immigrants to medical men, a total of \$542,126, or \$3.57 for the inspection of each immigrant. Yet, we all know that to-day there are hundreds and thousands physically unfit to make their living in this country, that they are a charge upon the Dominion or the province where they are, and we hear from the charitable institutions all over this Dominion that the greater number of those for whom they have to provide are the immigrants that are brought into the country. We know that many of them are affected with contagious diseases, that many are affected with eye diseases, that they have had from infancy, and that if the medical examination had been as thorough as it should have been, the state of affairs that we find in regard to immigration could not exist. Only a few were deported last year, proving beyond a doubt that whilst we have paid large sums for the services of these medical inspectors, the examinations were not such as should have been made, and that those who to-day are imposing the greatest burden upon the charitable institutions are these immigrants. Under these circumstances, I submit we have a state of affairs which could not exist if the provinces had supervision over these lands and of immigrant work, the provinces having much more interest in this work than the Dominion has. Under these circumstances, I submit that it would be much better that they should have the lands. They could make more out of them and they could have settlers of a desirable class coming in under their supervision. Then, again, I submit that the land belongs to the provinces. It is true that the Dominion of Canada paid £300,000 for that country, not for the land, but for the right of the Hudson Bay Company to hunt. Therefore, I say that the land, as I read the British North America Act, should and does belong to the provinces. If the other provinces require all the land they can get in order to make ends meet, if they require money, and if they run in debt year after year, how is it that these new provinces with the amount of money which is to be placed at their disposal, will be able to improve that country as they should? They have to provide charitable institutions for that unfortunate class that is rapidly increasing in all countries, the insane. They