

IMMIGRATION DISCUSSED.

McCreary said upon the subject was correct, and the Doukhobors were equal to the Society of Friends, they would make good citizens of Canada. Mr. McCreary had spoken with a good deal of zeal, and was deserving of credit for the address he had delivered. Mr. McCreary had also spoken with knowledge of his subject, but the House should not be surprised at this when the Auditor-General's report disclosed that \$90,000 of public money had passed through his hands. (Laughter.) As a farmer, Mr. Robinson expressed the opinion that this country needed immigration in order to develop the west, but he objected to the sending out as immigration agents of party hacks, some of whom could not get a job here. One gentleman, about whom his constituents in West Elgin would like to know something, had an immigration agent receive a salary of \$3,000 and other expenses, inclusive of the cost of a trip to Canada, amounting to \$1,822. He objected to the Government paying that man's expenses to Canada in order to clear himself of charges against him in West Elgin. If a man was a played out politician and had helped the Government and they gave him a job the Government did not deserve the confidence of the people. He would, however, give them credit if they appointed a good man, and would not care how much money was spent so long as it was well spent and the country received value in return.

Mr. Oliver.

Mr. Oliver said the impression conveyed to his mind by Mr. McCreary's speech was that the prosperity of the west was largely due to the immigration of the Doukhobors and Galicians. From that he entirely dissented, and contended that there would be a larger immigration of settlers of a superior class were it not for the presence of those foreigners. Instead of encouraging the immigration of Galicians and Doukhobors it should be discouraged and prevented. The prosperity of the west was due to the Canadian and British farmers who had settled there and had made the country what it was. There would and could be no assimilation between these people and the Canadian people for many years. There was no comparison between the German who comes from Galicia and the Galicians who come from Galicia. There was a strong pride of race in the German, who belonged to a dominant race and had a pride in his citizenship, but the Galician, who knew nothing of government except as a tyranny, could not be expected to make a good citizen for many years. Mr. Oliver contended that the Austrian Government was anxious that 2,000,000 Galicians in Galicia should move out, to allow room for the growth of the German population. A deal was effected between the late Government and the Austrian Government, as a result of which the first colony came out, and the Dominion was now threatened with the influx of a couple of million of them. With regard to the Doukhobors Mr. Oliver disapproved of them as settlers, and urged that any people who were too good to conform to the laws of the country were too good to live here. The Galicians were at least anxious to become citizens, and were willing to conform with the laws of the Dominion, whereas the Doukhobors objected to the laws.

A Plea for the Open Door.

Mr. D. C. Fraser spoke for the open door in immigration. He would like to see Englishmen and Irishmen come to Canada, but above all he would like to see God's only elite, the Scotch; but, failing that, he wanted to see good, honest citizens, who would till the soil and make farms. He appealed for greater breadth of view and a thoroughly British spirit in our immigration.

Mr. Puttee declared that the Doukhobors were good people if they could be persuaded that this was a good country to live in. He dwelt at some length on the position of labor organizations on the question of immigration, pointing out that the only objection ever taken was to Governmental assistance to the introduction into the country of blocks of labor that would disturb the labor market.

Mr. Davis (Saskatchewan) defended the Doukhobors and the Galicians, and gave some striking examples of their thrift and success.

Mr. Wallace pronounced the Doukhobors and Galicians undesirable settlers, and said they had been nursed and coddled by the Government. He compared their treatment to that which the Fox Bay settlers had received. He quoted from a local newspaper a statement to the effect that the Fox Bay settlers were dumped down upon an unhealthy tract of land, and many of them had died from typhoid and la grippe. In consequence several of the settlers had left Manitoba and returned to the east.

Hon. Clifford Sifton.

Hon. Mr. Sifton said he had heard Mr. Wallace speak often during the

last four years, but the hon. gentleman had never spoken without appealing to the prejudice of some class of the community in Canada. Tonight Mr. Wallace had well sustained his past record, and had endeavored to gain strength politically by appealing to these prejudices, which a statesman would endeavor to allay. He had done that by dragging in at the heels a reference to the Fox Bay settlers which had nothing to do with the question under discussion. Mr. Sifton affirmed that the Government had been in no sense to blame or derelict in its duty with respect to the Fox Bay settlers. What the Government had done in the case of the Fox Bay settlers was purely gratuitous. These people had a dispute in regard to the land, and the Prime Minister, in order to avoid friction and allay that prejudice which Mr. Wallace was trying to arouse among the people, solicited and received private subscriptions in order to settle them upon lands in the west. That action on the Prime Minister's part was purely voluntary. Mr. Sifton said that no body of people, whether large or small, had ever gone into Manitoba or the Northwest who have received the same amount of care and attention at the hands of the Government or their officers as the Fox Bay settlers. Mr. Wallace had also given the Conservative Government credit for having brought the Mennonites into the country, but Mr. Sifton quoted from Hansard to show that the money was voted in 1875 by the Mackenzie Government to make the loan to these people, by means of which they had been brought in, and at that time the Conservatives denounced the Liberal Government precisely in the same manner as they were denouncing the Government for introducing the Doukhobors. Mr. Wallace insisted that the arrangements to bring the Doukhobors in were made by Sir John Macdonald's Government. Mr. Sifton asked why, if that were the case, did Conservatives not denounce the Macdonald Government for bringing in these people, as they were now denouncing the Government in connection with the Doukhobors and Galicians? Mr. Sifton said he had, before the Galicians came, personally travelled through the Yorktown district, in which Mr. Wallace was interested through a colonization company, and had witnessed the dismantled and idle mills and thousands of acres lying useless on the hands of the company. Now the mills were working and the lands occupied. The Opposition now declared that the Government should settle the northwest with settlers from Ontario. Why had not the Conservative Government done this instead of going to the United States? Under the policy adopted by this Government the young people were going into the northwest in large numbers. With some warmth Mr. Sifton defended the Galician and Doukhobor settlers from the unfair criticism to which they had been subjected, and declared that they would make excellent settlers.

Mr. R. L. Borden.

Mr. R. L. Borden said that the Minister of the Interior had not answered the criticisms of Mr. Wallace in reference to the Galicians, and asked that the statistics upon which he had founded his assertions that they had such a good criminal record be produced. The Minister of the Interior was the last person who should have sneered at the member for West York, in view of the fact that when charges were made in the House which would result in either driving him or the member from Picton out of public life, his followers voted down the resolution for judicial investigation. He was willing to welcome as many of these people as could be assimilated, provided they were not coming here with manners and customs calculated to do injury to the interests of Canada. Mr. Borden regretted that no light had been thrown upon the statement that it was the custom of these Doukhobors to put away their wives upon certain grounds, and asked for a definite statement.

Mr. McCreary said that he did not fully understand their belief with regard to marriage, but from the result of his observations during some four years' experience he was satisfied that it was impossible this could be the case.

Mr. Borden accepted the statement of Mr. McCreary as satisfactory, but could not see how in that case such a letter as had been received from England could have been written. If the charges made were correct they were not a desirable class of settlers.

Mr. Sutherland (Oxford) asked whether Mr. Borden was aware these people were recommended by the Quakers Association of England and the United States.

Mr. Borden said he was glad to learn that fact, but he urged the necessity for an authoritative announcement being made in regard to the belief of the people upon the subject of marriage. He asked that the Minister of the Interior at a future sitting would state what he was willing to do to encourage immigration from Ireland, and also urged that efforts should be made to encourage immigration from European countries of kindred stock to the British people, of which there was already representatives in the Dominion.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that Mr.

Wallace had without rhyme or reason brought the Fox Bay settlers into this matter, and had taken advantage of the occasion to make statements which were not warranted in fact and could not be substantiated. There was no law making citizens of Canada wards of the nation, and what he had called "caressing" the Doukhobors and Galicians was done under the immigration law; but Mr. Wallace knew there was no power under the law to take people from one Province to another. The Fox Bay settlers had been treated with the greatest consideration by the Government. As to being settled in a swamp, they were not settled there by the Government, as the location was selected by their own friends. The object of Mr. Wallace reading a letter from the newspapers was to arouse prejudice in the minds of the people which he was not himself willing to endorse. The location was selected on the bank of the lake in order that these people, who had been fishermen all their lives, could continue their fishing operations.

The motion to go into supply was withdrawn, and the House adjourned at 1 a.m.