

AN IMMIGRATION SPAT.

WAR BETWEEN MR. BECKLES WILLSON AND MR. PRESTON.

Mr. Preston Declares Canadian Government Does Not Want Syrians, Neapolitans and Other Kindred Races—Mr. Willson Insinuated it Did.

(Canadian Associated Press Despatch.)
London, Feb. 2.—A sharp controversy regarding the class of immigrants to Canada has developed between Mr. Beckles Willson and Mr. Preston. Mr. Willson in an article in "Canada," a new publication, strongly argued against the low grade of emigrants from eastern Europe, and declared that "the commonest London loafer has more decency and instincts of citizenship than the Sicilian, Neapolitan, Croat or Magyar." The Post in a long comment thought the plea worthy of careful consideration, but saw no reason to exclude Scandinavians, Germans or French.

Such Races Not Wanted.

Replying to The Post, Mr. Preston said: "No propaganda has been carried on among the Syrians, Croatians, Neapolitans or other kindred races in southern and eastern Europe to induce their immigration to Canada, nor is it the intention of the Canadian Government to encourage these races." To this Mr. Willson said in the course of a letter that he "congratulated Mr. Preston upon the decision of the Canadian Government." He considered such immigration unnecessary, as a hundred thousand can be secured from the British Isles.

A Strong Objection.

In a long letter to The Post this morning Mr. Preston says: "When Mr. Willson endeavors to make the Canadian Government responsible for his alleged announcement that it is not their intention to encourage alien races to the Dominion he should be called down." He draws a distinction between "Syrians, Croatians, Neapolitan and kindred races," and those from Scandinavia, Russia, Germany, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Austria-Hungary, Switzerland and France. Positively no efforts have been made to induce the former to emigrate, but Canada, he says, has room for the latter in addition to the hundreds of thousands of Britishers, to whose desirability everybody agrees.

Aside from this controversy much space has been devoted in the press to the immigration discussion, relative to the merits of Canada and Australia, and invariably to the advantage of Canada.