

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST "FOREIGNERS."

"That is rather a cheap endeavor," says The Kingston Standard, "on the part of certain Liberal newspapers to make it appear that the Conservative party shares the views of the Ottawa politician who expressed himself as of the opinion that no English-born citizen should be a member of Parliament here. Such an idea as this gentleman advances is as absurd as that the Conservatives support the idea. As a matter of fact the Conservative policy is the old but very easily understood policy of equal rights and a square deal to all." But little notice would be taken of Mr. Birkett's illiberal remark about Englishmen were it not that it is only one item in a catalogue of similar offences. If The Standard is a reader of its western contemporaries it knows that in the midst of their chagrin over the result of the New Brunswick elections the Conservative newspapers sneeringly declared that Scott had been sustained by the "foreign" vote and by the "back townships." If, as The Standard says, the Conservative principle is "equal rights and a square deal to all," how does it account for these sneering references to men who have the right to exercise their franchise as they think fit? Surely it would extend equal rights to those who come in to help build up our country. One of the "back townships" which elected a Liberal was Lloydminster, a settlement almost wholly composed of Englishmen and their families. Surely each of these men has a right to assert his due weight in the community.

During the last two sessions of Parliament Mr. Bourassa and Mr. Lavergne made the most unwarranted attacks on the character of the immigration coming from England. They declared that it was the offscourings of the slums of the great cities of the motherland. Against this monstrous libel not an Oppositionist had the manliness to protest. Indeed, Mr. Cockshutt of Brantford helped forward the impression made by the two Nationalistes, although it was shown by his own letters that he himself had been desirous of promoting immigration, and yet for party purposes he was ready to extend encouragement to the unmeasured language of Messrs. Bourassa and Lavergne.

And now we have Dr. Bruce Smith, an official of the Whitney Government, helping forward the false impression by his reiterated statements of the number of immigrants to be found in the jails and asylums of the Province, to which the Conservative Press is giving the widest possible circulation. These figures may be correct, but they should be accompanied by the statement that they form a mere infinitesimal fraction of the million of settlers who have come into this country since the Liberals assumed power.

It is a poor type of politics. Canada has on the whole received a splendid class of settlers. In such a large number there will be misfits and undesirables. That is unavoidable, but, in the name of conscience, do not set down as the offscourings of the earth men who are helping to make Canada what it is, and whose children will be proud to tell that their fathers came to Canada from the motherland and were no inconsiderable factor in that growing time that has brought the Dominion into the world's limelight.