

MR. HANNA'S FOREIGNERS.

Mr. Borden has found it advisable to give out the following statement:—

"The despatch from Galt, published in The Edmonton Bulletin, that Mr. Hanna is repeating from platform to platform that old country immigrants are riff-raff of the British Isles, fit only for jails and asylums, is absolutely false and without foundation. What Mr. Hanna said in my presence, and I was present on every platform from which he has spoken, was that he welcomed desirable white immigrants of any nationality, but he objected to the bonused immigration of persons who are physically, morally and mentally unfit. He insisted that immigration should be brought in under more careful supervision, and that pains should be taken to sift out the undesirable class. He said that the negligence of the Dominion Government in this respect had imposed upon the people of Ontario a financial burden in connection with her public institutions. R. L. Borden."

The chief object of attack on the part of the delegates of the Trades and Labor Congress, who recently discussed the immigration question, was the work of the Salvation Army. Of that work Sir James Whitney is reported to have said while in London to a representative of The Canadian Gazette:—

"I have nothing also but words of the highest praise for the way in which the Salvation Army does its immigration work, so far as Canada is concerned. Every effort is made by them, and with success, to obviate any possible dislocation of the labor market in Canada. Their agents throughout the Dominion keep informed of the requirements, and in England a careful selection is made from the would-be emigrants having these requirements in view. There is no drag-net employed in England, and there is no dumping down of immigrants at Montreal or elsewhere. Immediately on their arrival the Salvation Army immigrants are taken to employers who are waiting for them, and in a very short time they become settled as useful and promising Canadian citizens. Recently the Canadian Government has decided to impose a money test of, I believe, \$25 on all immigrants arriving. This will certainly have the effect of hindering very appreciably the immigrant of the Salvation Army type. Still no reasonable person can in any way blame the Dominion Government for imposing this moderate test of character and capacity."

Sir James Whitney must see that there is grave divergence of view between the Provincial Secretary and himself. The labor men condemn the Army's methods, and he says

these methods are all right, while Mr. Hanna is going round inflating any prejudices which may exist against old countrymen. That that was the effect of his incendiary talk was evident from letters received in The Globe office. Letters came to hand in answer to The Globe's article in defence of the slandered newcomers, which, if published, would create a storm of protest from one end of the Dominion to the other. They were too sure a proof that in certain quarters inveterate prejudices exist against the old country immigrants. Why should a man in Mr. Hanna's position pander to that prejudice? He has set his officials to work to prepare a case against these old countrymen. At Pembroke he presented this case:—

He found, he said, that in the last five years the foreign element had increased in the Province of Ontario by twenty per cent. If the Dominion Government had exercised reasonable supervision of the class of immigrants coming to the country the increase in the foreign element at the asylums and at the Central Prison would be twenty per cent. But instead of such an increase it was shown that in the five years between 1903 and 1908 the increase had been about 90 per cent. Taking these figures as his basis and using the calculation that each of these "foreign-born" unfortunates would require attention for twenty years at an average cost of \$200 a year, Mr. Hanna asserted that, as a consequence of the increase in the "foreign-born" population of our asylums and jails, the Province was burdened with a liability of \$1,200,000 for the last year alone.

It is worthy of note that when Mr. Hanna speaks of "foreigners" he is speaking of men and women born in the British Isles, and just as good subjects of the King as he is. The Peterboro' Examiner analyzes Mr. Hanna's figures and shows that they are wholly misleading. The Examiner puts it stronger. It says that "when compared with the actual figures and contrasted with the facts, the Provincial Secretary is found to be guilty of deliberate misrepresentation, not to use the stronger term of deliberate falsehood." This is plain speaking, but it must be said that the statistics furnished by The Examiner bear it out to the full. It is nothing short of disgraceful that whole classes of our population should be slandered in order if possible to take some of the credit from the Liberal Government for the splendid success of its immigration policy. That is not politics; it is treason.