

## DEPORTING ALIEN LABOR.

### AMERICANS CONVENIENTLY FORGOT DUBARRY.

The Washington Correspondent of The Chicago Record-Herald Says the Work of Canadian Immigration Officers May be Stopped.

The ability of people in the United States to forget that they were the first to introduce alien labor legislation, and that it was Mr. De Barry's enforcement of their law at Buffalo which chiefly stirred up the feeling of retaliation leading to the similar enactment in this country, is shown in a despatch to The Chicago Record-Herald from its Washington correspondent, published in that paper on the 1st inst. The despatch is prompted by the appeal to the United States State Department by Mr. Bacon, an American engineer, who has been employed on the G. T. P., and who has been threatened with deportation at Port Arthur. The despatch says:—

There is going to be a row between the United States and Canada over the enforcement of alien contract labor laws. Strikes in the United States, especially along the Canadian border, accentuate the points in controversy, the labor unions of the two countries using the laws to prevent the importation of strike-breakers, who are informed upon on reaching the boundary and turned back. Canadian Government policies are likely to be involved in the dispute, and the propriety of its action in offering inducements to American farmers to migrate from the northwestern border States into Canada will be questioned. Here follows a paragraph announcing Mr. Bacon's appeal, the despatch continuing:—

Labor leaders in the United States frequently invoke the American law against non-union men coming from Canada to take the places of strikers along the border, but the United States authorities do not attempt any general enforcement of the United States law against Canadians. Thousands of French-Canadians leave the Province of Quebec in the fall to work for the winter in New England, going home in the spring time to put in their crops. These birds of passage are not interfered with in the winter. Hundreds of persons who reside at Canadian frontier points, such as Windsor, Fort Erie, Prescott, etc., cross the line into the United States every morning to work and return to their Canadian home at night. These, too, come and go as they please. There is also an enormous migration from the Maritime Provinces of Canada to Boston and other New England cities, young "blue-noses" of both sexes finding employment there for a few months and returning home for the fishing season or the planting of crops. Here, again, there is no interference on the part of the United States officers.

On the other hand, the position occupied by the Dominion Government is in more senses than one peculiar. In the first place, it has of late employed a number of officials on the pay roll of the Interior Department at Ottawa to travel about the western and northwestern States for the purpose of inducing American farmers to move to Manitoba and the Northwest Territories of Canada. Some of these Government agents have opened offices at the expense of the Crown in St. Paul, Chicago, La Crosse, Spokane and Milwaukee, from which they distribute literature prepared and printed by the Canadian Government, while special rates for American settlers from the great west to Manitoba are arranged for, also at the expense of the Dominion Government.

As a rule, no country objects to being visited by foreigners who in their private character desire to promote emigration to the land from which they come. In Germany, Russia and elsewhere in Europe persons occasionally get into trouble through instigating desertions from the army or evasion of military service; but, speaking generally, they are allowed to carry on their work at will.

The question is now asked whether the United States is not likely to object to the proselytizing operations, not of individual Canadians, but of the accredited agents of the Dominion Government.

While the Dominion Government is thus itself contracting with American labor to enter Canada, it is interfering with private persons who do so and deporting the Americans whom those private persons attract. Further, it is spending large sums in bonuses, advances and loans to induce such people as the Doukhobors of Russia to cross the Atlantic and settle in colonies in the Northwest Territories, though not even Sir William Mulock, the Canadian Minister of Labor, pretends that a Doukhobor is as valuable an acquisition to Canada as an American engineer. Another question will be raised in the case—namely, whether Canada, as a colony of Great Britain, has the right to exclude from her borders American citizens or the citizens of any other nation with which Britain is living in comity and good-will. It is said that good Canadian lawyers do not think she has but the question has never been brought before the courts.