

IMMIGRATION POLICY ATTACKED.

Mr. Lavergne's Motion Condemning Bonus System.

DANGER FROM THE U. S.

Encourage French Immigration as a Measure of Safety.

Able Defence of the Government's Policy by the Postmaster-General and Mr. McIntyre of Strathcona—Motion Defeated Without Amendment—Another Coal Mine Difficulty Settled—Interior Estimates Dealt With.

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)
Ottawa, April 9.—This was to have been Mr. Foster's day in the House, but the member for North Toronto had reckoned without Mr. Armand Lavergne, who brought forward a resolution condemning the bonusing system as applied to immigration, and initiated a debate which occupied practically the whole day, and proved one of the most interesting of the session.

Question Time.

When the House met this morning and before the orders of the day were called Dr. Daniel asked when the New Brunswick vacancy in the Cabinet would be filled. Mr. Fielding said he must ask his hon. friends to accept the general answer that the matter was under consideration.

Col. Hughes and Dr. Sproule again asked several questions as to Lord Aylmer's retirement, but Mr. Fielding said he had no further information and could not say whether or not Col. Vidal had been promoted to make his pension secure on an adequate basis.

Mr. Monk asked whether it was intended to make any change this session in excise laws so far as they related to duties on tobacco.

Mr. Fielding replied that when the Government came to prepare the programme for the close of the session the Prime Minister was of the opinion that as the matter was controversial it might well be left over until next session.

More Good News From Coal Mines.

The Minister of Labor said that he had an announcement to make to the House with respect to the lockout at Taber. He had received a letter this morning dated April 5th from Mr. C. Dickson of the Canada West Coal & Coke Company, stating that as soon as the company was apprised of the character of the new law bearing upon such matters he had notified the men that the "mine was open and they are working, and I hereby make application to the Department of Labor that a board of investigation be appointed." (Cheers.)

Proceeding, Mr. Lemieux said that he had another piece of good news to announce to the House, and it was that the threatened general coal strike in the west had been averted. The employees of the Crow's Nest Pass Company, West Canadian Company at Lille and Bellevue, the Canadian American Coal & Coke Company at Frank and the International Coal & Coke Company at Coleman, numbering 2,770 men, had returned to work and applied for the appointment of boards of investigation to inquire into the disputes as to wages and time. (Cheers.)

The Immigration Bonus System.

Mr. Armand Lavergne brought forward the question of immigration. He condemned the bonus system as being unjust and dangerous in principle. There were, he said, only two desirable classes of immigrants, those coming from the British Isles and France and Belgium, who were accustomed to a similar code of law to which they were accustomed in Canada. Immigrants from other European countries had different ideas, and became an element of danger because they could not be assimilated. They had the example of the United States before them, where, in spite of the large population, fear had been expressed as to the nation's capability to assimilate the immigrants, and President Roosevelt had called a Congress to consider the matter. Mr. Lavergne claimed that French immigration had been unfairly treated, especially when considered from the point of view of Quebec's contribution to the

immigration funds. He protested against what he called conspiracy in the Interior Department against French immigration. The department seemed to say the Doukhobors are better than the French. The argument was that the French did not emigrate, but the statistics for the last year showed that about 92,000 French emigrated and 43,000 Belgians. There were 400,000 unemployed in France, many of whom would be suitable immigrants. He thought the tendency of the English-speaking Canadian was towards the United States, and that the Government would be adopting a wise policy if they promoted French immigration to counteract that tendency.

He concluded by moving a resolution condemning the bonus system as unwise.

Bonuses Only a Side Issue.

The Minister of the Interior said the question of bonuses was really a side issue. If issue there was, it was a question of immigration. He pointed out that Canada has an area equal to that of continental Europe, and at the present time a population not quite equal to that of Belgium. Under such circumstances there must be room and necessity for a reasonably rapid increase of population in Canada if Canada was to achieve the greatness which heaven intended it should achieve. As the conditions changed the policy of immigration must change. At the present time bonuses were not paid, either to immigrants or to steamship companies, to bring them. Bonuses were only paid in the direction of advertising the advantages of Canada in the countries from which it was considered desirable to secure immigrants. They were paid to booking agents whose business it was to sell transportation tickets and in that way the agencies for advertising Canada were multiplied.

Little Canada Party.

Resuming his speech in the afternoon, Mr. Oliver said that as the result of the present policy not only had the number of immigrants from Britain increased, but the class had been greatly improved. The system under which they paid bonuses in regard to British immigrants, and under which they proposed to pay bonuses in regard to continental immigrants, was essentially a system by which they could secure a select class, suited to the conditions and requirements of the country. He characterized the speech of the member for Montmagny (Mr. Lavergne) as most discreditable, and as a deliberate attempt to set section against section, race against race, and creed against creed. The member for Montmagny and those who supported him stood as representatives of a Little Canada party. (Liberal cheers.)

Mr. Bourassa.

Mr. Bourassa declared that the public of Canada were sick of tacit and secret contracts relating to immigration—(Opposition cheers)—and complained that the Government had changed their policy without consulting Parliament. Canada was now so well known throughout the world that they owed it to their dignity to cease advertising the country through the medium of more or less disreputable agents, as a patent medicine to which they invited all sick people from other countries to come for a cure. He admired the work of the Salvation Army, but he strongly objected to Canada being made a ground of exile or of reformation for the worst characters of Whitechapel. It might be well, from a money point of view, to encourage this influx of American population, but he doubted that there was a taint of sincerity about their so-called loyalty when they said that it was in accordance with British citizenship to open the country broad to American people, capital and ideals. Would those people be influenced merely by a flag on a school house? Yet this was the policy the Government were carrying out, discriminating in the development of the west against Canadians—the Canadian farmer born in Quebec.

Mr. McIntyre of Strathcona.

Mr. McIntyre (Strathcona), speaking as a representative of a district where this immigration policy was supposed to operate, said the statistics of the census of June last proved that the statement that four-fifths of the population were foreigners, had no foundation in fact, and he repudiated the statement that his constituents were the "scum of the earth." The Galicians, adventurous and enterprising, with habits when they arrived in the country somewhat different from Canadians, had progressed and were progressing in a manner which made them desirable citizens. Again, with respect to the influx of Americans, they must remember that largely they were repatriated Canadians, and was it likely that they, after having spent years in exile, would teach their children to be disloyal? The purely American immigrants, coming from a democratic country, had found in Canada practically their ideal of responsible government, and was it likely that they would be disloyal? It ill became any Canadian to stand up in the House and in view of these facts, in view of the fact that a large proportion of the population was British-born, to condemn the population of the west with an oratorical flourish. Between 1901-06 the population of the three western Provinces had increased 389,350, of which 239,044 were British-born. With that percentage of loyal Canadians could they say that there was any danger such as had been spoken of?

Mr. Lemieux.

Mr. Lemieux said that no human law could prevent immigrants leaving continental countries for a land where they believed there could be freedom and justice, and was Canada to close her gates to them? It was all very well to roam across the Province of Quebec, clamoring that the French-Canadian did not receive help by way of immigration from France, but the facts were that the French never did emigrate in large numbers, and at present they did

so less than ever. At a time when France was perhaps the greatest power in the world there were in America 65,000 French against three million English-speaking settlers. If in Canada they were to have a political platform based on a postage stamp, then people would say "one language" and the firebrands would have caused it.

The Conservative Leader.

After dinner Mr. Borden resumed the debate on the immigration policy. He thought there was not sufficient provision for the selection of the best quality of immigrants, and that the order in Council was simply carrying on the same game as was carried on under the North Atlantic Trading Company's contract. He was opposed to any propaganda in any country, the laws of which it contravened. If the resolution had been restricted on these lines he would have supported it, but in its unqualified form he could not do so.

Mr. Monk supported the resolution, contending that the time had arrived when Canada should cease bonusing.

Hon. Sydney Fisher.

Mr. Fisher said the results spoke for themselves, and described the attacks of the Opposition as arising from envy, because their own policy had not been followed by the same success. With regard to the statements as to the Liege exhibition, it was a matter which had been explained over and over again, that in these international exhibitions only Dominion exhibits could be received. Literature dealing with any particular Province was not distributed, the work being national in its purpose.

Mr. Robitaille supported the motion. The resolution was lost without a division.

The House went into committee, took up consideration of the estimates for the Department of the Interior, and passed several items.

The House adjourned at 12.10 a.m.