

some facts which have not been sufficiently brought before the Senate during the present session, in relation to the immigration office at Quebec, now managed by the agent, Joseph Lavoie. He was called to that office as assistant agent on the 1st April, 1907. A position was created for him at the time at Quebec. Mr. Lavoie had lived some time in Quebec and had met with failure in running a patent medicine company which he organized, bringing ruin on many. He went to the United States and was naturalized there and was, at the time of his appointment to the office in Quebec, a citizen of the United States. He was brought to Quebec by one of his friends, Mr. Parent, who secured him a position in the immigration office at Quebec, through his influence with the government. The following year the chief agent was compelled to resign, and, naturally Mr. Lavoie being on hand, took his place and became chief agent of the immigration office at Quebec. That was on the 15th April, 1908. On the 1st April, 1909, he got a slight increase in salary, and it is now about \$2,000. I do not complain of the gentleman personally; it does not matter to me who is there, but what I do complain of is the treatment which immigrants receive at his hands. A number of complaints have been made against him, but the department does not take these complaints into consideration. They are either turned down or laughed at in the most disgraceful way. I have here a complaint sent to Mr. W. D. Scott, Superintendent of Immigration at Ottawa. It reads as follows:

To Mr. W. D. Scott,
Superintendent of Immigration,
Ottawa.

Sir,—I have the honour to bring to the knowledge of the government, in an official manner, so that it may be taken into account, the following complaint that I formulate as follows:

Firstly.—I, Leonce Stein, during thirty-five years head clerk in the immigration office at Quebec, declare, firstly, that from the 1st January, 1909, to the 15th April, 1909, that Dr. Jos. Paradis Lavoie, Immigration Agent at Quebec, has given forty-three days of leave to the three officers at the immigration office at Quebec, viz.: J. J. O'Flaherty, John O'Connell, Gustave Beaulieu, and forty-seven days to the other three officers, viz.: J. P. Stafford, John Byrne and Sosthene Morisette, this without previously having obtained the necessary authorization to this end, and, what is more

serious, of having made a false return to his chiefs in declaring under his signature that all these employed had been present at their office during these 47 days of absence; in consequence the six officers in question have received their full salary, i.e., collectively, a total amount of \$694.29, to which they had not any right.

Secondly.—That the said Joseph Paradis Lavoie, Immigration Agent at Quebec, treats the immigrants in an illegal manner, treating them brutally; in support of such accusation and at present only citing a single case, but reserving to myself the right to make known several others, I declare that at the beginning or towards the beginning of the month of June, 1908, one morning towards six o'clock, I have seen with my own eyes Dr. Lavoie, Immigrant Agent at Quebec, in the immigration building, seize an immigrant woman, accompanied by her child, which was lying on the bench, and throwing her to the floor while pushing her violently to the outer door, saying 'Get out, go out,' I will prove this fact and several others by reputable witnesses.

Thirdly.—That the restaurant keeper of the immigration office at Quebec, to the knowledge of the said Jos. P. Lavoie, has set aside the instructions of the government to sell his produce to the immigrants at exorbitant prices.

Fourthly.—That the said Joseph P. Lavoie conducts the Immigration Department in a manner to favour certain persons furnishing supplies, among others, Mr. Jacques Dery, the restaurant keeper, at whose place he himself takes his own meals.

Fifthly.—That the said Joseph P. Lavoie permits the sale and the distribution to the immigrants and to (some?) employees of drinks prohibited by the department.

Sixthly.—That the said Joseph P. Lavoie has succeeded by partial conduct and by outraging preferences in discontenting the different companies which engage in the debarkation and transport of immigrants.

And to prove these accusations in an irrefutable manner, I have the honour to request that following the promise of this that was made by Hon. Sir Richard Cartwright to the Senate during the present session, the government will grant the inquiry which I solicit.

I have the honour to be,
Yours sincerely,
(sgd.) L. STEIN.

Quebec, 21st February, 1910.

This is the first accusation brought against Mr. Lavoie, that of making a false report to the government. This session I called for a return of the attendance and pay-lists of the employees in the Immigration office at Quebec, and requested to have them for the four months ending with April, 1909. I got a return from the department which shows the names of the parties who are complained of in the letter I have just read. I see that in the month of January, O'Flaherty and Stafford and the others are all marked present for the thirty-one days. There is a column for