

limits of government, should give more attention to the ordinary citizen of the country and his conditions of life. The money now spent on immigration, if capitalized, would amount to \$15,000,000 or \$20,000,000; and if that money were put in charge of a commission and spent wisely in the North-west, it could be made a better immigrant drawing agency than we have to-day, and would not be attended with the evils of the present system. I hope, Mr. Speaker, to see a curtailment of this expenditure on immigration.

Mr. T. O. DAVIS (Saskatchewan). I would not have spoken on this question were it not for some of the remarks made by the hon. member for Alberta. But first I would like to refer to a few of the statements made by the last speaker (Mr. Puttee). He discussed the immigration question from a labour standpoint, as affecting the labour interests in Winnipeg. But very few of the people he spoke about are to be found in Winnipeg. No doubt, when first brought in, they might have affected the labour market for a few weeks, but after they got out to the locations, I do not see how they could have interfered with that market. No doubt these people have done a certain amount of work on our railways, but if it had not been for them we could not have constructed our railway lines because it was impossible to get Canadians to work with pick and shovel when times were so prosperous on the farm. The hon. gentleman appeared to imagine he was talking for the whole of the North-west, but certainly the people are not in accord with his view. What the people want is a larger expenditure on immigration. The more immigrants we get into the country, the better it will be for all classes. I do not think that the small amount paid by the department in promoting immigration has been badly spent. Mr. Daly, when he was Minister of the Interior, inaugurated what he called a progressive immigration policy, and according to the figures, you will find that for the last three years, before the late government went out of office, it had brought in 79,000 people at a cost of over a half million dollars. But in the last two years this government has brought in 119,000, at a cost of only \$26,000 more than the late government paid for bringing in 79,000 people. That certainly speaks well for the administration of the Immigration Department.

The hon. member for Lennox (Mr. Wilson) certainly deserves credit for having brought out the crushing reply which was administered to him by the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. McCreary). In discussing the Galicians and the Doukhobors, he showed that he did not know very much about the question. I happen to know something about these people, having employed both. I have had Doukhobors working for me and now have them in my house. I have had men

and women working for me and am, therefore, in a better position to judge than my hon. friend from Lennox. The hon. member for Alberta said he knew more about this question than anybody else in this House. Well, I would not like to say that I know more about it than any other hon. gentleman, because I think that the hon. member for Selkirk, who has been immigration commissioner for four years, has demonstrated this afternoon that he knew more about it than perhaps any other man in this House. The hon. member for Alberta has taken some dislike to these people, but he has no right to say that in expressing his dislike he is voicing the sentiment of the whole North-west. He has no right to speak for the people of the west, but only for those of his own constituency. The immigration of the Doukhobors was not promoted in the first place by this government, but by the late government, and in this I think they did what was right. It is unreasonable to expect that with our great territories, stretching west from the great lakes, we should wait for their development by the sons of farmers from the other provinces. In the county of Alberta there are 96,000 square miles of territory. Assiniboia is about the same extent, and the county I represent has an extent of 110,000 square miles of good agricultural lands. Are we to be asked to wait until the sons of the people of older Canada will come out and settle that country. I like to see the Galicians coming out there because they are very good settlers. If we are to wait to populate our western territories with the sons of English farmers, I am afraid that our people will find there is a terrible lot of money spent with very little result. The hon. member for Alberta spoke of millions of these people who are in Galicia and may come here in the near future. Well, 60,000 of these were accepted as desirable immigrants in the United States last year, and from my own observation they will make very desirable settlers.

The Galicians may not have much capital when they come in, but when they settle on the soil they are there for good. And, if the government advances them any money or loans them seed-grain or gives them any other assistance, the government may be very certain that it will get back that money, every dollar of it, with interest. In my own district I have a lot of Galicians. And if the Minister of the Interior can send us more Galicians they will be welcome. If my hon. friend from Alberta is not satisfied with these in his district, let him send them to my district and I will be very glad. For, those we have there are doing remarkably well. I have heard it said in this House and out of it and have seen it in the press that these people were immoral and dishonest. My knowledge of the Galicians lead me to believe that there is as high a percentage of honesty among them as there

Mr. PUTTEE.