

this country. And, so far, I suppose we might say that the result was fairly satisfactory. For every immigrant who comes into Canada and makes a home here becomes at once a contributor to the revenue under our system of raising our revenue largely by indirect taxation, and, in very little more than a year that immigrant, if of the self-supporting class and not destined to become a burden upon the community, will have contributed nearly the sum of money it has cost to secure him. It is, therefore, not a bad proposition that the government should spend something like \$9 per head to bring in immigrants, provided it secures a desirable class. And, generally speaking, I think it has been the policy of both parties in Canada for a number of years past to treat immigration as one of the most important things that could engage the attention of parliament. And to-day parties in Canada, I think, are united in justifying the government in expending money in a liberal manner in order to secure population for this country. The only matter about which there can be any question or dispute, and I presume the matter which the hon. member for Lennox (Mr. Wilson) had largely in mind when he introduced the subject to-day—a subject for years past to which he has given a great deal of attention to the great advantage of the House—was to look closely into the figures to discover if there was a defect in the mode of expenditure, to see if the returns set forth in the statistics of population coming into the country were correct, and if the results of the immigration expenditure were exactly what they purported to be. I think, that to a certain extent, my hon. friend from Lennox has been able to show that there is, perhaps, a leakage from Canada of some of the immigrants that were reported as coming into this country. All the persons who land at our ports as steerage passengers and who are destined for Canada or who assert that they are Canadian immigrants, I suppose, are included in the gross number of immigrants set down to the credit of the Immigration Department. But I think there can be no question at all that the authority quoted here to-day by the hon. member for Lennox, Mr. Watchorn who is the head of the United States service in Canada, goes to show that, to a certain extent at least, there has been on the part of some of the older and less desirable countries of Europe a disposition to send into Canada as Canadian immigrants a certain percentage of persons whose ultimate destination is not really Canada but the United States. And these, of course, would not take this means of reaching the United States if the more ordinary and easy avenue of direct immigration were open to them. Inspector Watchorn states that there were, last year, 26,000 immigrants landing in eastern ports in Canada and claiming to be

destined for Canadian points, of whom, as he contends, a very large proportion were really trying to make their way into the United States by this roundabout route. It would not be a matter of any seriousness if these 26,000 persons chose to make their way through Canada and there were no objections to their entering the United States. It would only mean that the revenue of the steamers coming to our ports and the revenues of those persons who, in the course of their passage through this country are called upon to supply the wants of these immigrants would be benefited. We might look upon that immigration passing through Canada to the United States as just as important and valuable a class of traffic as any other that comes to our shores, and we should welcome it. But the point that has been made, not only this year, but in past years, by the hon. member for Lennox, and for which he has relied largely in the report of the United States officers who man the frontier and are found in all our ports and important railway stations, is that, to a certain extent the reason why these 26,000 people, or that portion going to the United States through Canada instead of going to the United States direct is that there are circumstances of a most undesirable character which compel them to use that avenue to the United States. Whereas a very small percentage of the immigrants who go by direct passage to the United States are rejected as undesirable, from either mental defect, poverty, or contagious or loathsome disease, the figures of this gentleman, Mr. Watchorn, go to show that a large percentage of that immigration from the continent of Europe which goes to the United States through Canada, or which he believes is on its way to the United States when it comes into Canada, is so affected with disease, or impoverished, or so defective in intellect, that the people would be rejected if they tried to make their way into the United States by the direct route; and so they choose Canada as a back door through which they can slip into the United States, escaping the vigilance of the officers whose duty it is to inspect these immigrants going into the United States.

Now, in connection with that matter which was discussed in this House last session, a Bill was passed in 1892, the operation of which I suppose comes under the care of the Minister of the Interior, which authorizes, for the first time, the government of Canada to deport such immigrants, to arrest them summarily without warrant, wherever they are found, and to deport them from the country. Now, it would be very interesting to learn to what extent that Act has been put in force, how far it is in operation in Canada to-day, and to what extent Canada is being purged from the dregs of the immigration which the officers of the United States refuse to receive, and which the people of Canada in years past