

to call the attention of the government to a rather remarkable circular which has been placed in my hands, issued in one of the large cities in Canada, in which the gentleman who signs it, after enumerating a number of kinds of business which he is willing to transact, goes on as follows:—

Issue marriage licenses, citizen papers, make all kinds of legal papers, passports, get permits for old or crippled people to be allowed to land in Canada, &c.

It is rather a remarkable statement to be floating around the country in the form of a circular. I thought it right to call the attention of the government to it. The letter which accompanies this circular and which is from a very reputable person, who is engaged in the charitable work of assisting men who are out of employment and who have recently come to this country, states that it is due to a regular business of this kind carried on in some parts of the country that we have many of the helpless people in Canada at the present time who are to be found in all of the larger cities. I shall be very happy to send the circular to the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) and the right hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) that they may consider whether some action ought not to be taken with respect to an advertisement of that kind scattered broadcast among the immigrants of the city to which I allude.

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I would be very glad if my hon. friend (Mr. R. L. Borden) would send me over the circular. I shall certainly see that my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) takes cognizance of it.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR REMOVAL OF CROPS.

Hon. GEO. E. FOSTER (North Toronto). I noticed that yesterday, in another place, a member of the government made rather an extended explanation in reference to the arrangement which had been made by the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) with certain of the banks looking towards the facilitation of the removal of grain from the Northwest. Several questions have been put to the Minister of Finance in this House but he has pleaded that it was not quite opportune or advisable that explanations should be given and this side of the House has given way as it felt it might for a time to the plea which was made. But I think that is all taken away when a gentleman, being a member of the government, lets it all out as far as he has it in his position in another place. I sympathize a little with my hon. friend the Minister of Finance in being forestalled in a matter in his own department, but I think it is due to the House that he should be equally as alert as his much older colleague.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN.

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance). I am unable to say anything in reply at present. I asked my hon. friend opposite to withhold his application for this information for a reasonable time, and he was good enough to consent. I think it is in the public interest that we should not make public the arrangement now, and probably there is still enough behind what has appeared in the press to make it interesting when the papers come down. I hope that shortly after Christmas we shall be able to discuss the matter.

Mr. FOSTER. Will there be an injunction placed on the elderly member of the cabinet who seems rather anxious to satisfy public curiosity?

Mr. FIELDING. I am afraid I shall have to take that into consideration.

DRUGS AND PATENT MEDICINES.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). Might I ask if it is the intention of the government to bring down this session a Bill dealing with drugs and patent medicines? I put the question the other day when my hon. friend the Minister of Inland Revenue (Mr. Templeman) informed me that the matter was under consideration. It might remain under consideration a very long time, and I think we ought to know whether it is his intention to bring down such a measure or not. If it is, I shall be very glad; but otherwise I shall have to bring the matter up in a different way.

Hon. WILLIAM TEMPLEMAN (Minister of Inland Revenue). I think I will be able to give a very definite answer in the course of a few days. The matter has not been overlooked. We have had several proposed Bills before us and are considering them now.

THE ALL RED LINE.

Hon. GEORGE E. FOSTER (North Toronto). I notice in the despatches of the Canadian Associated Press that Mr. Sifton has with him in London the Dominion geographer, and the tenor of the despatch would seem to indicate that Mr. Sifton was using this official in the matter of his negotiations with reference to the proposed fast line in a way rather to give the impression that he is acting on behalf of this government. What is the particular purpose for which the Canadian geographer is away from his duties here and dancing attendance on Mr. Clifford Sifton in London?

Right Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister). Mr. White, the Dominion geographer, is in Europe at my request in order to collect data concerning the lines of steamers now plying on the Atlantic from all ports, with the view of obtaining