

the population should be of such a class and character as will deteriorate rather than elevate the condition of our people and our country at large. It is the feeling of the people of the North-west that we should bring into that country a high class rather than a low class of immigrants. Our western people are convinced that it is in the highest degree necessary for the welfare of this Dominion that there should not be any deterioration in morality and intelligence and in civilization in the settlement of our western territories.

When I took the liberty of placing these views before the House some years ago, the reply was made that we must have settlers, we must have people to cultivate our prairie lands, and if we cannot get them from one class, we must get them from another. In my opinion, that argument was not good then; but even if it were, it does not exist now. There are desirable people, our equals in every way, in civilization, intelligence, enterprise and aspirations, pouring into that country by the hundred thousand. We are, therefore, not dependent on picking up settlers wherever we can. We are getting settlers of a most desirable character, and every undesirable settler tends to keep out a desirable one. That is the point of view from which I regard immigration, and I believe it is from that point of view that the majority of the people from the North-west regard it. They do not want to see their institutions deteriorating. They do not want their political or social or municipal life to be placed at the mercy of people who do not understand their benefits or advantages. In any country whose government depends on the popular vote, every voter is a part of the governing body; and in bringing people into the North-west, we are introducing people who will have as much to say in the government and the management of the country as we will; and if the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Roche) thinks it is a good thing for this country that its destinies should be placed in the hands of those whose ideas and aspirations are not the same as ours, I certainly cannot agree with him. I believe in a vigorous immigration policy, such as has been pursued by the government of this country, but I believe that the success of that policy lies in the improved administration of the land and affairs generally in the North-west as make that country desirable for settlement to settlers of a high class. There is no need of depending on the less desirable class of immigration, when we can certainly get the more desirable class. It cannot be any longer a question as between immigration of an undesirable class and no immigration. The country has got beyond that point. It is now a question, as it possibly was not before, as between a less desirable and a more desirable class of immigration.

Mr. OLIVER.

Something has been said, I understand, about the paying of bounties or commissions to induce immigration. To my mind, if ever there was need for that system, that need has passed. The payment of bounties and commissions has a tendency to bring the less desirable rather than the more desirable class of people. The work of introducing immigration is carried on in many different ways. Some are better than others; and I would take the liberty of suggesting to the House that there is a certain system being carried on to-day which is in every way desirable, a system which is producing the best possible results and which may very well be enlarged so as to continue these results. I speak of the system which is followed in one case by Mr. Swansen, who is especially an agent for the immigration of Scandinavians, more particularly of Swedish people. He is an enthusiast on the subject. His system of work is to go to the colonies of his countrymen in the United States and deal with the people personally and individually. He does not induce or ask any man to come whom he does not consider a desirable settler. Then, when he gathers together as large a party as he can handle well, he accompanies them right to the ground where he intends to locate them, he sees them located, takes an interest in them while they are preparing their new homes, and goes back for another party. That may seem a slow process of inducing immigration; but I may tell the House that, as the result of the work of that one man applied in that way, there have been added to the population of the district which I represent some ten or fifteen thousand people, all of a character which does not admit of any question—intelligent, energetic enterprising people, people full of the highest aspirations of civilization. Another gentleman who carries on much the same work, is Mr. Adamson who goes to Scotland, selects his people there, brings them out, places them and goes back for more. What I suggest is that this system of selected immigration be extended and expanded, and be depended upon for the filling up of our country. That system I claim, coupled with satisfactory administration and with a sound railway policy for the development of our country, will bring as many immigrants as we can handle from year to year, as many as we can assimilate from year to year, as many as can be brought into the country with advantage from year to year; and by that system we avoid any question arising from inducing the lame or the halt or the blind, or the mentally or physically or socially unfit.

Different ideas are held and expressed in regard to this great North-west. There is apt to be, on the one hand, an idea that the North-west does not matter, and the immigration that comes in does not matter so long as it goes to the North-west.