

to come to Canada, which was described to them as a great, free country. I want to know who was responsible for sending them to St. Walburg. I understand it was a man by the name of Sinclair, in the colonization department of the Canadian National Railways. A Mr. Schneider acted as colonization agent for the system, over which he was given the privilege of a pass. I have made inquiries and find that this man was using his position as colonization agent to make money out of those immigrants, who were quite ignorant of the ways of this country. He made \$5,200 cash on commissions on sales of land to them. He was also an implement dealer and made exorbitant profits on the sale of implements. I was told by a gentleman, at one time Liberal member of the local Legislature, whose word, I am sure, the honourable leader of the Government would not doubt, that he had met loads of old wagons, puttied and painted to look like new, which had been sold and were being delivered to these poor immigrants at most unreasonable prices. These people had been placed on land of such poor quality that earlier settlers had been starved off it. Those settlers had taken off the leaf mould and sod, and my informant told me that a whole farm was not worth five cents. A little Czech fellow, who spoke very good English, said that Schneider bought horses at \$50 a team and sold them to the Sudetens at \$160.

If this scandal is not thoroughly investigated and the people are not given back the money of which they were robbed, 90 per cent of them will leave Canada and say they were placed amongst a pack of robbers. This will give Canada a bad name. It is the duty of the Government to see that a thorough inquiry is made.

Schneider also had the appointing of the two supervisors of the settlement, and the people say those two should be where he is—in an internment camp. A responsible citizen in the village who had just returned from the farm of one of the settlers, told me that the man was cutting hay in a slough with an ordinary pair of house scissors, the women were packing it in sacks and the boys were carrying it a quarter of a mile to a barn. Those supervisors, it seems to me, are simply endeavouring to make a farce of the whole scheme and cause the settlers to be dissatisfied with the country and its laws.

I intend to make it my business to visit the settlement again, and in the meantime I ask the Government to make a thorough investigation of this distressing state of affairs.

Hon. Mr. COPP: When was the land sold to those people?

Hon. Mr. HORNER: I think it was last year.

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: I am sorry the honourable gentleman has waited so long to draw this matter to our attention. He has been with us for some time since his return from the district which he mentions, and, had he informed me, I should have been happy to submit the matter to the department. The honourable gentleman now asks for an investigation. I will put his request before the Minister in charge of the department and I promise him that to-morrow I will furnish him with a prompt answer. If an inquiry is necessary, it will undoubtedly be made.

I know nothing about the parties who brought these immigrants to that part of Saskatchewan, nor do I know who is responsible for their coming to that particular district, or for looking after their welfare. I was under the impression that the provincial authority had a certain responsibility in respect to the reception of immigrants. I shall make inquiries in the hope of being able to give an answer to-morrow.

I notice my honourable friend has a good word for the Dukhobors. Some twenty-five years ago we had in our midst a delightful old gentleman, Senator MacGregor, who came from Nova Scotia. Sir Wilfrid Laurier used to speak of the Scots of Nova Scotia as the salt of the earth, and the phrase applied most happily to the Senator. Senator MacGregor, in company with a nephew, who also happened to be a member of this House, spent a few weeks in a Dukhobor settlement, visiting from house to house, and on his return he gave us a very favourable report of the hospitable and Christian spirit which appeared to animate them. That was before the Dukhobor trek to British Columbia.

Hon. W. A. BUCHANAN: In the statement the honourable leader of the House (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) is to make to-morrow, I would ask him to cover the respective positions of Mennonites and Hutterites in relation to military service. There is a distinction between the two groups. It would be well to make clear whether Mennonites who have immigrated to this country in recent years are on the same footing as Mennonites who first came to this country and who enjoy immunity from military service under either an Order in Council or a statute of 1873. The later Mennonite immigrants have come from Russia, and there are several settlements in southern Alberta. All Mennonites are individualists. The Hutterites live in communal settlements and, I suppose, might be called Communists.