

House, much less of a minister of the Crown.

Mr. OLIVER. My hon. friend (Mr. R. L. Borden) has been good enough to give us his opinion of the people who have been mentioned, but he has not been good enough to give his opinion of the language used—whether it is or is not in accordance with the facts.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I do not seem to have succeeded in making myself clear to the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) but I think I have made myself perfectly clear to every other person within the sound of my voice.

Now, this motion, as I have already pointed out, goes beyond what I think is desirable. It declares that the bonus has a tendency to bring in less desirable rather than the most desirable class of people. I do not think that necessarily follows, for the reason I have stated, and the motion, in the bald form in which it has been extracted from the speeches of the Minister of the Interior, does not seem to me to be proper. It would shut out altogether, any effort of this kind to bring us immigrants from the British Isles. That was the policy of the Minister of the Interior, when he was a private member of this House if these sentences are correctly quoted from his utterances in 1901 or 1902, as I am assured they are. I must say that that circumstance makes me a little suspicious. I do not think we would be justified in going thus far. Now, it is true that we have an order in council, passed on the 19th of February last. It seems to be designed for the purpose of establishing, in effect another North Atlantic Trading Company in a somewhat different form. I observe, in the first place, that it specifies certain classes of persons upon whom bonuses are to be paid. In the next place, it provides for the selection of agents; that is to say, it declares that it will be possible

—to make a selection of responsible and reliable agents who may be depended upon to provoke no conflict with the authorities who are responsible for the administration of the emigration laws above referred to.

These are the restrictive laws which prevail in most European countries. Now, there is the selection of classes and the selection of agents, but there does not seem to me any particular provision in the order in council for the selection of immigrants.

My idea is that we in this country should endeavour to select the best quality of immigrants. It is not enough to select agents who will not get into conflict with the governments of the respective countries, we should go further than that and endeavour to select the very best immigrants of each class referred to in this order in council. The order in council does not seem to take

Mr. R. L. BORDEN.

any account of that. I think further it is not a desirable thing that we should carry on an emigration propaganda against the law of any foreign country. That was attempted in a very skilful form by the contract made with the North Atlantic Trading Company. I shall not go over the history of the negotiations and the contract with that company to-night. It is enough to say that the apparent attempt to carry on by collusion with these agents a propaganda which was forbidden by the laws of foreign countries, has resulted in secrecy of contract, in the denying of information to parliament and last but not least in the threat by these agents of the government that they would commit suicide if their names were divulged. That is not a very desirable condition of affairs. We would not desire to drive any one to suicide or to contravene the laws of any foreign country or to enter into collusion with any agents, so that while pretending to carry out the laws they will, with the collusive sanction of this government, in effect violate the laws of foreign countries. I do not believe in that; I believe we should not carry out in Germany, Scandinavia, Russia, Austria or any country a propaganda which is in effect forbidden by the law of that country. This order in council seems to me to be intended to carry on the very same game as that which was carried on under the contract with the North Atlantic Trading Company? What was the meaning of the contract with the North Atlantic Trading Company? What was the meaning of the terror that was inspired by the suggestion of divulging the names of the persons who composed that company. It was pointed out by one of the gentlemen who discussed this matter the other day that there were only two possible explanations of the failure of the government to divulge the names of those persons to this House and this parliament. The first explanation is one which would be unworthy of this government and which I shall not put forward, namely that some persons who ought not to be interested in this contract had, as a matter of fact, an interest in the contract. The only other explanation was that these agents were in fact carrying on a work in foreign countries which was forbidden by the laws of those countries, but this government knew perfectly well that these agents were carrying on this work and by the secrecy it imposed on their operations and by withholding information from parliament, was protecting these people against the laws of the foreign countries which they violated. That is the only explanation, and if it is designed by this order in council and by the scheme which is to be carried on under it to repeat that which has already brought discredit upon this government, I for one am not inclined to agree with it.

I do not agree with the motion in the terms in which it is proposed. I do however