

the famous North Atlantic Trading Company which received the bonus previously paid to individual booking agents. You remember well, Mr. Speaker, that when this contract was cancelled last year it was cancelled, either, as my hon. friend from La-belle (Mr. Bourassa) put it the other day, because the contract was an immoral one, or because it was opposed to the laws of nations. We have been told that some of the shareholders if their names were given, if the people of Canada knew to whom they were paying this bonus, would be obliged to commit suicide. I have been under the impression since this reason has been given that if the names of the shareholders of the North Atlantic Trading Company were given not many of them would commit suicide, that not one of them would commit suicide, but that probably a good many of them would go to prison. There is another feature of the North Atlantic Trading Company contract and that is the exclusion of the French element which involves an unjust distribution in the expenditure for immigration purposes. This expenditure is unjust to the older provinces of the Dominion.

The Immigration Department is for the Northwest and very little is for the older provinces of the Dominion except that they have to bear the burden of immigration. I have under my hand a publication which is issued by the Department of the Interior called the Twentieth Century of Canada. It is rather an expensive publication. It has 39 and 40 pages of printing and maps but the Twentieth Century of Canada is nothing less than the Northwest. I see half a column for Ontario and half a column for Quebec. The immigration policy which is carried on is carried on only for the Northwest. Certainly no one in Canada desires that the fertile plains of the Northwest should not be developed, but we have at the same time to remember that the older provinces of the country support more than three-quarters of the burden of the cost of the immigration policy of this government and they should at least receive something in return. We will have the west filled up with a very large foreign population which has no national idea of Canadian unity and which will overbalance within a very short time the older provinces of the Dominion. This is so true that one of the great writers of Canada, Mr. Goldwin Smith, in the last issue of 'Review of Reviews,' says that the filling of the Northwest with Doukhobors, Mennonites, Galicians, Jews, Poles, Prussians and all those coming in from Europe, will have no other effect than the breaking up of confederation. I would not go that far but it seems to me that we should exercise greater wisdom in the selecting of the new population which we are inducing to settle on the plains of the Northwest.

There is another feature of the immigration policy of this government which I de-

sire to call to the attention of this House and the country in general. It is the most unjust way in which French immigration and the province of Quebec have been treated. The province of Quebec, in so far as the immigration policy of this government is concerned, pay more than their share. We are about 30 per cent of the population and therefore we pay 30 per cent of the expenditure. In return what do we receive in so far as French immigration is concerned? We receive 0.5 of the whole immigration of this country. Immigration into Canada, a French economist, Mr. Pierre Le Roy Beaulieu has stated, is fast overflowing the natural increase of the Canadian population, but at the same time the immigration policy of the government does nothing towards bringing to Canada French immigrants. I speak for the French Canadians who are about 30 per cent of the population and who therefore bear 30 per cent of the cost of the immigration policy. In 1905-6, of \$843,000 spent for immigration purposes the province of Quebec paid \$260,000. Of French immigration about \$10,000 was spent. Of the 215,000 immigrants who came to Canada not more than 4,000 were French speaking.

Mr. W. ROCHE. What profession or employment did the French-speaking immigrants follow?

Mr. A. LAVERGNE. I think most of them were farm labourers.

Mr. SAM HUGHES. Were any of them expelled clergymen?

Mr. A. LAVERGNE. No, but I hope a great many of them will come to Canada.

Mr. SAM HUGHES. Clergymen who were driven out of France by order of the French government.

Mr. A. LAVERGNE. I hope we will get more of them because they are the very best class of immigrants we can have in this country.

Mr. SAM HUGHES. A curse to the country.

Mr. A. LAVERGNE. They can compare with those who have been described by an imperial officer as worse than Sikhs.

An hon. MEMBER. How will they vote?

Mr. ARMAND LAVERGNE. I hope they will vote according to their conscience as every honest Frenchman does. Now, my hon. friend may not be pleased with the French immigration we bring to this country, but I can say, Mr. Speaker, that it compares advantageously with the immigration which has been brought from continental Europe by the North Atlantic Trading Company. The French immigrant would compare more than favourably with