

grain would have been left in the fields to rot instead of being marketed and turned into the channels of commerce. These gentlemen appear to forget all these things. What happened last year, and the year before last? There was the very greatest difficulty, not only in the North-west, but in the province of Ontario, in securing the number of agricultural labourers that were necessary for the purpose of putting in the crops. This fall there will be the greatest difficulty for them in securing the number of labourers for the purpose of taking the crops off. Would the hon. gentleman have police stationed at Halifax to stop these labourers from landing, and allow the grain to rot for the want of their labour? That would be the statesmanlike policy the hon. gentlemen would like us to pursue; but I venture to say that inside of one week after a policy of that kind was pursued, the farmers of Ontario and the North-west would be prepared to vote this government out of power on account of its total lack of intelligence in dealing with a question of that kind.

Well, my hon. friend from Lennox (Mr. Wilson) is in serious trouble about the question of the health of the people that come in. It is a strange thing that nobody except the hon. member for Lennox and the United States inspector ever finds anything wrong with these people. Practically five-sixths of the people who go to the western prairies have passed through the hands of our immigration commissioner at Winnipeg, and nobody ever heard of their being ill or diseased. There is no suggestion that they do not belong to a desirable class of people so far as health is concerned. The only persons we hear that suggestion from is the hon. member for Lennox and his friend the United States inspector, Mr. Watchorn. If my understanding of the hon. gentleman's argument is correct, it is in effect that we should make such an arrangement as would allow the officers of the United States to decide who should come into Canada.

Mr. WILSON. I made no such statement. What I said was that we ought to enter into an arrangement with them, that we ought to have as much to say about it as the Americans, and that there should be a good understanding between the two governments.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. That is precisely what I said. The hon. gentleman says that we should make an arrangement with the officers of the United States to the effect that if they thought a man was not desirable, we should also think that he was not desirable, and that consequently they should decide who should come into Canada. I have to say that as long as the department is under my charge the officers of the United States shall not decide who shall come into Canada, the officers of the Canadian government shall decide that.

We consider that the officers of the Canadian government are just as competent as those of the United States government. We have power to make this inspection at the present time. A medical inspector is stationed at each of the ports of landing, a competent medical inspector. They are all presided over by a general inspector of first class professional attainments; and we have no reason whatever to believe that it is necessary that their inspection should be revised by officers of the United States.

Mr. WILSON. When was the medical inspector appointed at Montreal?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I cannot give the hon. gentleman the date.

Mr. WILSON. I may say that his deputy minister was before the committee as late as the 11th of June, and, according to his evidence, no one had been appointed there then.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. The hon. gentleman may refer to the fact that the deputy minister stated there was no permanent appointment made. There has been an acting medical inspector since last December. So I say that so far as his proposition is concerned that we should put ourselves in the hands of the officers appointed by the United States Immigration Department and allow them to decide upon the management of our affairs, I do not approve of that suggestion, and I am not able to hold out any encouragement to my hon. friend that I am likely to follow it. If it can be shown in any way that the officers of the Department of the Interior, the medical officers appointed for the purpose of making this inspection, are not making their inspection properly, then I shall be happy to have my attention called to that fact.

Mr. SPROULE. The hon. gentleman says: If it can be shown. How was it that there were 4,534 persons rejected by American officials on account of being diseased, and who proposed to go from Canada to the United States, if they had not already come in?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Where were they rejected?

Mr. SPROULE. They were rejected at the frontier.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Where?

Mr. SPROULE. Part, I understand, at Montreal, and part at Sault Ste. Marie, and others either in Winnipeg or at the boundary line.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. So that the hon. gentleman desires to argue that because, for their own purpose, it suits the Immigration Department of the United States to station inspectors