

laws of Canada are just as well calculated to protect our people as are the laws of the United States to protect the Americans, and so we need have no fear. I am surprised that my hon. friend from Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) said so little on the question of the immigration from France and Belgium, because it is the special point raised in the motion of my hon. friend (Mr. Armand Lavergne). I say at once, that if I rise now, it is to put an end to the campaign which has been carried on by a certain press in the province of Quebec, and which has been proclaiming that this government was deadly opposed to French immigration.

I oppose, Sir, the most unqualified denial to such an accusation. It is not true, I say so on my responsibility as an adviser of His Majesty in this Dominion. It is not true. It is all very well to roam about the province of Quebec, to go into the essentially French Canadian centres, and to say: Fellow countrymen, you are not helped in this country you do not receive from France, your old mother country, the share of immigration, to which you are entitled'. It is well enough to hold that language in the province of Quebec, but what are the cold, hard facts? Let me put this question to my hon. friend: Is it a fact, yes or no, that the people of France emigrate to-day? Have they to the extent that other races do, ever emigrated in the past? I know that, with my hon. friend's honesty of purpose, with his wide knowledge, he will answer me that never in the past, and even less to-day than in the past do the people of France emigrate.

Mr. BOURASSA. Does my hon. friend (Mr. Lemieux) wish me to answer his question?

Mr. LEMIEUX. Wait a minute. During nearly two hundred years, according to the historians of this country, less than 9,000 Frenchmen came to Canada as settlers. It is true that in 1759, at the time of the conquest, there were 65,000 of French blood in Canada. But the increase was due to the high birth-rate among the French-Canadians. Why, my hon. friend (Mr. Bourassa) himself, in a remarkable essay which appeared in one of the periodicals in England, two or three years ago, stated that the French who came from France under the old regime did not come—except the small minority—as permanent settlers, but as soldiers.

Mr. BOURASSA. I never said that.

Mr. LEMIEUX. I will quote it. Wait. The moment the struggle was over in 1759, the soldiers returned to France—

Mr. BOURASSA. Hear, hear.

Mr. LEMIEUX—the rich, merchants returned to France;—

Mr. LEMIEUX.

Mr. BOURASSA. Hear, hear.

Mr. LEMIEUX—but the peasants remained in this country, and they formed the permanent basis of the French race in America. All this is only to exemplify the main point, which is that, in two hundred years under the French regime, the French came to this country to the number of only 8,000 or 10,000. To further illustrate my point that the French do not emigrate, contrast the History of Canada under the French regime with the history of the New England colonies. The Pilgrim Fathers landed about the same time as the first French settlers on the shores of the St. Lawrence. But, at the time of the American revolutionary war, we find that the French colony—though the means of communication with England were no better than those with France, and though France was, perhaps, the predominating power in Europe and in the world—there were only 65,000 French in America against nearly 3,000,000 English-speaking people in the thirteen colonies. The French do not emigrate, yet my hon. friend speaks of French immigration. He knows—I am sure he knows—that you will not find emigrating from France to-day to the foreign countries of the world more than 6,000 a year. My hon. friend will not deny this.

Mr. BOURASSA. Of course, I deny it.

Mr. LEMIEUX. I will explain—

Mr. BOURASSA. Over 90,000 emigrated last year.

Mr. LEMIEUX. My hon. friend (Mr. Bourassa) is not serious. Of course, it is quite true that from Toulon, Marseilles, Bordeaux and Havre, 90,000 people, 100,000 people, 150,000 people, leave France every year. But are they French? No, they are Armenians, Syrians, they are Spaniards, they are Italian navvies. Mr. Whelpley, who has written on this subject, who has thought over it and knows more about it than my hon. friends from Montmagny and Labelle know, says:

The emigration from France has been nearly a quarter of a million people in fifty years, and the annual exodus is now less than 6,000. These people come to the United States of America or the Argentine. France is deeply concerned, however, with immigration matters owing to the fact that her territory is a great highway for those coming from countries of the east and of the south. Russia, Austria, and Italy and the Levant, send their thousands of immigrants each year, and the French ports and the French people are thereby exposed to all the evils which follow upon this movement.

That is where my hon. friend (Mr. Bourassa) will find his 90,000 French emigrants.

Mr. ARMAND LAVERGNE. If my hon. friend (Mr. Lemieux) will pardon me, it is not to Mr. Whelpley's book that he should