

then he was a free member of parliament.

Let me say further that it appears to me to have been a mistake in the past to have spent so much money as we have in paying bonuses to steamship companies for the conveyance of immigrants, and for this reason: we made the steamship companies, by that means, our immigration agencies, and it did not make any difference to the steamship companies what the character of the immigrant was, who he was, or where he was from, so long as they got the bonus.

Does not that argument apply to the booking agents as well as to the steamship companies? Certainly it does, unless the Minister of the Interior can prove that every Hamburg Jew he selects as an agent is so patriotic, that when an undesirable immigrant comes to his office he will say: I cannot send you to Canada; I am too patriotic a Canadian to do that; I will lose by \$2.50 commission on you, rather than send you to that country. Unless the Minister of the Interior can give such a certificate of character to every Hamburg Jew or Liverpool Jew that he appoints as an immigration agent, the remarks of the member for Alberta on the 29th of April, 1902, which I have just quoted are just as true to-day as they were five years ago. Let me quote further what the Minister of the Interior said when he was member for Alberta:

It seems to me, from my point of view, that this is a most undesirable system and a most undesirable expenditure, and I would ask that it be not continued.

These are the words of the member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver) speaking of the immigration policy of the government, and if I have any reproach to make to my good friend from Montmagny (Mr. Armand Lavergne), it is that he has taken the words of his motion from the very language uttered in this House by the member for Alberta. The former part of my hon. friend's motion was taken from a speech made by the member for Alberta one year later than the speech I have referred to, and the circumstances which existed then exist to-day, the only change being that the member for Alberta is now the Minister of the Interior. On the 14th of July, 1903, the hon. member (Mr. Oliver) said;

Something has been said, I understand, about the paying of bounties or commission to induce immigration. To my mind, if ever there was need for that system, that need has passed.

It was not a question with him then, as to discrimination or selection, but in his opinion the whole system was bad, and he condemned it without qualification.

The payment of bounties and commissions—

And here again, Mr. Speaker, if you do me the favour to follow the wording of the motion, you will find that my hon. friend from Montmagny has made a faithful copy

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of the language of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Oliver):

The payment of bounties and commissions has a tendency to bring the less desirable rather than the more desirable class of people.

Well, Mr. Speaker, that is still my opinion; and at the expense of being denounced as a racial zealot, or a Little Canadian, I still hold the patriotic view which the member for Alberta held before he became Minister of the Interior.

But that is not all. A Bill was introduced providing for the better inspection of immigrants in the matter of their health, and the hon. member (Mr. Oliver) supported the Bill, but he warned the House that sanitary precautions were a small consideration compared with the great national principle at stake. He said:

From my standpoint, the diseases existing among immigrants are but a trifling consideration in comparison with the general character of the immigrant. I cannot understand the frame of mind which looks carelessly upon the introduction into the very life of our country, of a population without regard to whether such population will raise or lower the general standard of our people. It does not need any demonstration on my part, that if the increase of population which will necessarily take place in the development of these resources is of a character and constitution essentially different from our own, not only will they build up a different civilization wherever they establish themselves, but they will invariably control our civilization in this part of the country.

Now, Sir, the argument made by my hon. friend from Montmagny, is the very argument that was made by the hon. member for Alberta, when he was a member and not a minister.

It may be said that I have given these quotations simply for the pleasure of putting my hon. friend (Mr. Oliver) in contradiction with himself. If he has that thought he may dispel it; because after all when there has been some good in a man it is well to remind him of it, for it may help to awaken remorse. If I have reminded the Minister of the Interior to-day of his former self, it is simply because I still hope that he will not utterly abandon his patriotic ideas, and that instead of being dragged into this policy by a government which was dragged into it by his predecessor in the department, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Oliver) will assert his own will, and although he has given way by adopting this order in council, he will hesitate in the application of it and stop before committing the errors of his predecessor.

It is said to us: You want to restrict all immigration to Canada, you do not want the population to increase and the resources of our country developed, you are taking an unpatriotic view and the people of Canada will not support you. That charge