

ness with in countries which will permit us to do business with these people.

Mr. ARMAND LAVERGNE. If you pay that bonus to the people that you see fit to pay it to you will be making a contract.

Mr. OLIVER. Well, we perhaps make a contract but it is a tacit contract. We propose to hold out to certain people under certain conditions that they will receive a certain bonus but we have never made any contract and the order in council which my hon. friend has told the House was a contract is no contract. This is only one of the very many inaccuracies with which my hon. friend has favoured the House to-day.

At one o'clock House took recess.

House resumed at three o'clock.

Mr. OLIVER. The motion before the chair condemns the granting of bonuses as a means of inducing immigration, and it sets up the allegation that such a system tends to indiscriminate rather than to select immigration. I desire to place before the House the facts in connection with the bonus system as applied to Great Britain, and as it will be applied to continental Europe under the order in council to which my hon. friend (Mr. Armand Lavergne) has taken objection. The system granting bonuses to booking agents has been in force for many years. It was in force in Great Britain when the contract was made with the North Atlantic Trading Company, and the agents then received seven shillings a head on adults booked to Canada. There was a general understanding that this bonus should only be paid on immigrants of the agricultural class, but in practise it was taken for granted that any one who saw fit to declare his intention of following agricultural pursuits in Canada might be classed as an agriculturist. It was found, under such a system, that there was not that discrimination which was desired in the immigration from Great Britain. So long as the intending immigrant declared he was going to follow farming in Canada, the booking agent made his claim and, in a large number of instances, he was paid. But the people we desired from Great Britain were those who not only had it in their mind to follow farming here, but who, by reason of their mode of life in the old country, were fitted to pursue that calling when they came to Canada. After consideration, it was decided to increase (the bonus on British immigrants) from seven shillings a head to twenty shillings, or five dollars, and at the same time to definitely restrict the payment of the bonus to immigrants who had followed occupations in the old country which might fit them to be agriculturists in Canada. This large increase in the bonus was made for the express purpose of giving a substantial inducement to the booking agents to

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secure only desirable immigrants. If there was a difference of five dollars between the immigrant of one class and the immigrant of another class, it was believed that the booking agent would ship the desirable man to Canada and ship the undesirable man to anywhere else he might wish to go. That arrangement went into force in April of last year, and there is no doubt that under its operation not only has the number of immigrants from Great Britain been very greatly increased, but their personnel has been improved.

Mr. SPROULE. I do not understand the distinction which the minister drew between an agricultural immigrant and another kind of immigrant. Is the distinction that the agricultural immigrant himself declares that he intended to go on the land?

Mr. OLIVER. Formerly all that was required to distinguish an immigrant as an agriculturist was that on arriving in Canada he declared his intention to become an agriculturist.

Mr. J. D. REID. In writing?

Mr. OLIVER. No. It was found that the definition did not restrict the immigration as we desired. We then increased the bonus to five dollars per head on adult British immigrants, but restricted the payment so as only to make it on people who had in the old country followed agricultural pursuits, or pursuits kindred to agricultural, and who also declared their intention of following agriculture on their arrival in Canada. That policy has had the result of increasing the actual number of immigrants, because it stimulated greater activity on the part of the booking agents, and it has also improved the class of immigrants by reason of the large bonus paid for agriculturists. For instance, two men might go to a booking office; they might not have made up their minds as to what country they would emigrate to; one had followed farming and was eligible for the five-dollar bonus, the other had not; it would be to the interest of the booking agent to induce the agriculturist, for whom he would receive five dollars bonus, to go to Canada, while so long as he got the commission on the sale of the other man's ticket, it mattered not to the agent what part of the world he went to. In order that there shall be no mistake on this point, I wish to travel a little outside of the point raised in the motion. It has been stated very publicly that the government is in some way a party to inducing other than agriculturists, people who are adapted to enter into various other trades and callings, to come to this country.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. And why should not the government induce these to come here?