

the statement of the hon. member for Lennox is altogether aside from the question, and presented an erroneous view of the qualities of these people. If the hon. gentleman were present among them and saw them, and heard the remarks he himself made, he would burn his books and go home, and never make another speech in parliament. Then, there is another stage. When these people leave the cars and go upon the farms, they immediately commence the hard work of the country. They belong to the very class we desire, those who begin at the very bottom and work their way up. If they own a piece of land, they immediately begin to cultivate it; but the first stage is the work for those who can give them employment to do the rough work of the country. I ask hon. gentlemen from the North-west if that is not the class of people who are wanted in that country. The farmers want men who are pioneers who come in contact with the soil, and prepare it for those who succeed. These men are not dressed in broadcloth, nor the women in silks and satins; but they are dressed in a way to fit them for a thrifty, industrious, orderly, quiet life on the farm, determined to make their own way in the world and build themselves up with the country. When these people are on their farms and have commenced their working life, then is the time to see whether the government has been justified or not in bringing them into the country. Parliamentarians are perhaps not the best informed on questions of this kind; but I have heard from interpreters of their own race, who have seen them on their farms, have witnessed their daily life, and can contrast their condition in Galicia and other countries from which they came with their condition in the North-west. They say that these people are infinitely improved; their children have become educated; their daughters are more refined; they have gathered about them little homesteads, and they are beginning to live as people do in luxurious America. There is every reason why we should be satisfied that these people form an integral part of our population. Therefore, I cannot condemn the government; therefore, I say that the opinions of the hon. member for Lennox are erroneous. I say, from my own observation and the knowledge which I have acquired, that he is altogether astray. I do not believe he wishes to condemn this government for what it has done. The expenditure in bringing them here is insignificant in comparison with the benefits derived from securing this large industrious population, which is suited to the needs of that new country which we are paying so much at the present time to develop. The minister will no doubt reply upon the other points of the question. But I thought it was my duty, as I had this knowledge, to give the House my own personal opinion, without any desire to shelter the government

for wrong or to refute the hon. member for Lennox, but just to present that view of the question to which the House is entitled and upon which it can form its own judgment. I unhesitatingly pronounce my opinion that as the sources from which immigrants can be derived are so limited, the government should refuse to put obstacles in the way of immigrants coming to this country; and there is no class of people so desirable as the very class of agricultural labourers brought from Galicia and Hungary and the southern and western parts of Russia, which this government has fortunately secured at the present juncture in the history of Canada.

Mr. FRANK OLIVER (Alberta). Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member has called to witness representatives from the North-west in regard to this subject of immigration, it would hardly be in keeping if he did not receive a response. I would take the liberty of suggesting that the subject of immigration takes on different aspects according to the different points of view from which we regard it. It looks very different to a man in Halifax, who sees the immigrant pass from the steamer to the train, from what it does to the man who has to live alongside that immigrant for the rest of his natural life. I do not wish, however, to discuss particularly the feature of the question which has been treated by the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Roche). Since I have had the privilege of being a member of this House I have taken the view that indiscriminate immigration was anything but a desirable policy for this country, and that selected emigration was by all means the policy we should follow. Let me call the attention of the House to the importance of the character of the immigrants coming to this country. These immigrants mainly come in for the purpose of settling in the North-west. It is in the nature of things that the country between the Lake of the Woods and the Rocky Mountains is destined, at no distant date, to dominate this Dominion. The House will relieve me from any imputation of talking bombast when I say this, because it must be admitted that with fifteen hundred miles of unbroken fertility in that country, every foot of which is suitable for cultivation and the profitable support of human life, there are bound to be more people there than can possibly find settlement in the east. The filling up of the North-west with settlers therefore is not merely a question of furnishing a market for the manufacturers and the traders of the east. It is not merely a question of filling that country with people who will produce wheat and buy manufactured goods. It is a question of the ultimate result of the efforts being put forward for the building up of a Canadian nationality, so that our children may form one of the great civilized nations of the world, and be one of the greatest forces in that civilization. This can never be accomplished if the preponderance of