

I hope bear with me if I answer my hon. friend (Mr. Sproule). There is one portion of the hon. gentleman's observations which I was sorry to hear, and that is when he complained that he had not been treated with proper courtesy in the answer he received. I can assure my hon. friend (Mr. Sproule) that there was no intention on my part to be discourteous to him, and if he feels he was treated discourteously I am sorry he did not at the time call my attention to the matter, because I would have deemed it my duty to give him every possible satisfaction. There is nothing further from my mind than not to deal with an old member (and I may say an old friend as I regard the hon. member from Grey) in a courteous manner. I hope he will acquit me of any intention of being discourteous to him.

Mr. SPROULE. Certainly.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. In the answer which I gave to my hon. friend on the 5th December (page 724, 'Hansard') there is a misprint which is very obvious. In the month of August His Excellency was not in the country; I think he came here about the end of August or thereabouts. Then His Excellency went to the Hudson Bay, and he was absent from the capital, but he was still in Canada. When His Excellency was out of the country there was an administrator, but when he was in the country there was a Deputy Governor. That is the difference. The answer which I gave my hon. friend is to be found as follows on page 725, of 'Hansard':

On the face of it this Marconigram was sent during the month of August. During that month Mr. Justice Girouard did not act in the capacity of administrator, as during the whole of August, His Excellency was in Canada, but on the first of August—

That is a misprint; it should be the first of September.

—but on the first of September His Excellency before leaving for his trip to the Hudson Bay appointed Mr. Justice Girouard Deputy Governor.

I think I am correct about this, but I will have it verified again. With regard to the answer given to this inquiry of the hon. member for Dufferin as to whether the government had tendered a reception to His Eminence Cardinal Vannutelli, I can only say that the government did not do anything of the kind, but a member of the government, my colleague the Secretary of State did tender a reception to His Eminence Cardinal Vannutelli.

NEGRO IMMIGRATION.

Mr. THOBURN (Lanark). Mr. Speaker, is it the intention of the government to place any restrictions on or to stop alto-

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

gether negro immigration from the southern states into our Canadian Northwest? We find by the newspaper reports that these people are coming over into Canada by the hundreds; later on they will come by thousands, and so long as we give them free homesteads in the Canadian Northwest they will come by the tens of thousands. I would like to ask the government if they think it in the interests of Canada that we should have negro colonization in our Canadian Northwest? Would it not be preferable to preserve for the sons of Canada the lands they propose to give to niggers? I draw the attention of the minister of the Interior to an article bearing on this question which appears in one of our newspapers. The article is headed: 'Many Negroes Coming Over,' and is as follows:

Winnipeg March 28.—The arrival of a party of two hundred negroes from Oklahoma last week bound for free homestead land in Athabasca Landing district northwest of Edmonton, is raising a good deal of protest throughout the west and the opinion is freely offered that steps should be taken by the Dominion government to put a stop to a class of immigration that the experience of the Southern States would indicate is hardly to be classed as desirable. The party, which came into Canada by way of Emerson last week, was subjected to the most rigorous examination by the immigration officials, who found themselves unable to stop a single member of the party. All had plenty of money, were in perfect health and apparently of good moral standing. They talked freely and stated that they feared neither cold nor privation, and that all they were seeking was free land and a chance to make homes for their families.

The final action of the Canadian government in admitting to that country negro families from Oklahoma whose members possess \$5 each is having the effect of furthering the colonization movement among Oklahoma's negroes, especially in Okfusgee, Muskogee and Creek counties, where there is a large negro population.

The first immigration to Canada during the past week was of ninety families, 500 negroes in all, from the vicinity of Clearview, in Okfusgee county. They sold all their property in this state, intending to take up homesteads in Canada. Many other negroes are making preparations to start and indications are there will be a general exodus.

Mr. OLIVER. My hon. friend wants to know what the government is going to do under a certain condition which he has stated. The government can only do as parliament authorizes it to do. Parliament has passed a certain law in regard to immigration, and the government is administering that law. There is no provision in the law to prevent negroes from coming into Canada, and until parliament makes such provision, it will not be possible for the government to take action on its own responsibility. As to the facts of