

Liberal and Conservative, to pay to the steamboat booking agents, one pound sterling for each immigrant brought across in the steamers; but instead of doing that in the case of the Doukhobors, the government paid the one pound per head into the hands of a committee at Winnipeg, and in consideration of that payment, the committee has to see that they are provided for after landing and are placed on their homesteads in the North-west. That is all the government have paid.

I think I can dismiss from my consideration the Doukhobors, but there is another class of people, for the bringing whom into the country we have been strongly blamed. These are the Galicians. The Galicians are Austrians, as Galicia is a province of Austria, and the immigration from Galicia has been going on for many years. It did not begin under the present government. In a correspondence which took place between our former High Commissioner in London, the hon. gentleman who now leads the opposition, and the late government, the hon. gentleman agreed that the immigration of such a class would be valuable to this country, and he highly recommended them. We have now in this country about 16,400 Galicians, against whom strong objection has been made by the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace), and the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor). Against their opinions, let me place the testimony of people who speak from personal knowledge, and whose testimony is thus more reliable than that of these hon. gentlemen, who only speak from hearsay. In looking up the evidence for and against the Galician immigration, I find the following in a report issued by the general colonization agent of the government, wherein he makes reference to this class of people:

Proceeding to inspect the Galician colony of Fish Creek, I found these people had made as much progress as any nationality could be expected to do in the same time. I found also that the Galician girls gave entire satisfaction to their employers. The people are industrious and frugal; they are acceptable to other nationalities, they having made their homes comfortable, and I found it generally conceded that they will make good citizens. Their industry, frugality and thrift have removed the opposition that many had against them at the time of their advent to the country.

This evidence is worthy of the greatest credence, as it comes from a gentleman who was in a position to speak from personal knowledge and, therefore, with authority. Now, let me give you another evidence. In 1893, Sir Charles Tupper, the hon. baronet who now leads the opposition, was the High Commissioner in London. He issued a report, and, under the heading 'Continental Immigration,' I find this statement made:

There is no doubt, however, that the settlements of Germans, Scandinavians, Austrians and Galicians in the different parts of the Dominion are increasing, and that class of immigration is of the most satisfactory character.

The evidence I have given you upon the Galicians is drawn from men whose ability to testify cannot be challenged. It shows the wisdom of the Minister of the Interior in urgently soliciting these people to come to our country.

Now, having said so much with regard to the class of people our government have been inviting to come to this country and, to some extent, encouraging to come, I want to draw some comparisons between the result of the immigration policy of the Liberal-Conservative party and the result of the immigration policy of the Liberal party. It is sometimes said that comparisons are odious. I do not make these comparisons with that intention, but to show the results that will arise from a better policy as compared with those which can be expected to rise from an inferior policy. In the years 1881 to 1890, inclusive, the large sum of \$3,075,000, or an average of \$307,500 a year was expended by the Liberal-Conservative government in promoting immigration. The official return shows that, during these ten years there came into this country not less than 886,177 immigrants. I have here the report of the Department of Agriculture for the year 1891, and I will read you the footings of a table, which I give under its own head:

The number of immigrants who arrived during the ten years between 1881 and 1890, inclusive, and who were reported by the agents of the department as having stated their intention to settle in Canada, were as follows:

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|-----------|---------|
| 1881..... | 47,991 |
| 1882..... | 112,458 |
| 1883..... | 133,624 |
| 1884..... | 103,824 |
| 1885..... | 79,169 |
| 1886..... | 69,152 |
| 1887..... | 84,526 |
| 1888..... | 88,766 |
| 1889..... | 91,600 |
| 1890..... | 75,067 |

Total in ten years..... 886,177

Estimated natural increase, based upon the natural increase in United States, 1.4 p.c.. 605,000

Total increase..... 1,491,177

Mr. TAYLOR. That is ancient history.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). It is true that this is ancient history, but it teaches a very modern lesson. As I shall give you reason for believing, these tables must have been falsely made up, though put before this country as truthful official statements, or, these people who were alleged to have come in must have left the country again. Hon. gentlemen opposite may take either horn of the dilemma they please. These figures show a total immigration of 886,177. There must have been some natural increase of Canada's population in these ten years. I think I shall be justified in placing that natural increase at the same