

the Northwest—I did not see anything of the Doukhobors—I thought these Galicians would make very good settlers, and that in the second or third generation you would hardly be able to distinguish them from the descendants of Canadians. That was the impression which I formed and which I have stated more than once in this House. But if my hon. friend (Mr. W. McIntyre) proposes to question language used with regard to these settlers, let me point out to him what his leader, the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) has said about these people. I will not give many of the extracts that have been placed in my hands, but here are two or three of them. In 'Hansard' of 1901, page 2934, the hon. Minister of the Interior, then a private member of this House, is reported to have said :

I have heard hon. members say that these strange people, these Slavs, will assimilate with the other people. Do you know what the word 'assimilate' means? It is a nice sounding word. Do you know that it means that if you settle on a farm on the prairies, amongst them, or in their neighbourhood you must depend for the schooling of your children, on the taxpaying willingness and power of people who neither know nor care anything about schools?

That is a fairly strong statement. There is more of it, but I will not quote more than another line, as follows :

The pride of race is as strong in these people—

He is speaking now of the Germans and Scandinavians.

—and they object, and object very strongly, to being placed in the same category as a Slavic people, a people who, less than two generations ago were serfs of the soil, and who unfortunately have not had the opportunities, even if they had the capability to rise very high above that position to-day.

I do not think my hon. friend from Strathcona will find anything in the observations he reprobated so strongly which compares with the language of the Minister of the Interior whom to-day he is proud to call his leader.

Mr. W. McINTYRE. If the hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) will excuse me: He expresses the opinion that I was mistaken in interrupting the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) as saying that even a man who had taken the oath of allegiance was a foreigner. If my memory serves me well, the hon. gentleman went so far as to say that there will be a majority in this House coming from the western provinces, and if so, they would have to take the oath of allegiance. He also said that four-fifths of the population, would be foreign born and then before they could vote, would have to take the oath of allegiance.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I do not pretend to be able to set forth in detail what the hon.

member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) said. I can only say that his words did not impress me in the same way as they have evidently impressed the hon. member for Strathcona. Let me give another quotation; and, if the hon. member for Strathcona is disposed to criticise, I should certainly expect him, at the very earliest opportunity to rise in this House and reprobate most earnestly, the language used by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Oliver) who now occupies the position of the Minister of the Interior :

But the Galician or the Doukhobor who have been reared under circumstances which did not permit them to know what free government is, who know nothing of government, except that government is a tyranny, these people, let them be ever so good, cannot be citizens as we would wish them to be citizens, or as our Scandinavian or German fellow citizens are.

That is fairly comprehensive. A little further on there is this quotation :

We want to build up a nation, a civilization, a social system that we could enjoy, be proud of and transmit to our children, and we resent the idea of having the millstone of this Slav population hung around our necks in our efforts to build up, beautify and improve that country and so improve the whole of Canada. I say it is an unpopular policy in western Canada to encourage this Slav immigration.

I do not think you will find anything in the language used here to-day that at all approaches this which, somewhat singularly, has escaped the attention of my hon. friend from Strathcona—to which at all events, he did not refer, this afternoon.

Mr. OLIVER. Would the hon. gentleman (Mr. R. L. Borden) care to give the House his opinion of the remarks he has quoted?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I have already done so. I said—and I say again—that the Galician settlers, so far as any information with regard to them came to me, seemed to me to be good settlers; and I believe that the second generation will not be distinguishable from the descendants of Canadians. Now, I have answered the hon. gentleman (Mr. Oliver); will he answer me? Does he adhere to the sentiments he uttered and that I have quoted?

Mr. OLIVER. What has been stated there are facts, not sentiments.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I would point out to the hon. member for Strathcona that the hon. minister still adheres to the strong language he uttered with regard to the settlers who have been so strongly commended by the hon. member for Strathcona himself. I trust that hon. gentleman will take an early opportunity to bring to the attention of the Minister of the Interior the unfairness of the language he has used with regard to these settlers and to show him that this is language not worthy of a member of the