

that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the house to resolve itself into committee of ways and means, and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Guthrie.

Mr. GEARY: Will not Your Honour go into public bills and orders?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid not. In the case of a special order which takes precedence over public business, Bourinot says:

The hour for private bills is not interfered with when precedence is given to a particular order, but sometimes they are not called in order to meet the general convenience of the house, and its desire to conclude a debate. In such cases, this is a matter of arrangement with the members in charge of private bills.

It appears therefore that while an exception is made in respect to private bills, the special order takes precedence over public bills and orders. In this instance, the special order for consideration of the motion of the Minister of Finance does not exclude private bills.

Mr. DESLAURIERS (Translation): Mr. Speaker, when the house rose at six o'clock, I had begun to enumerate a number of localities in the western provinces where the labour of the continental immigrants had accomplished marvels and to whom, perhaps, we owe to a great extent the prosperity of the west. Are not the prosperous districts located to the west of Swift Current the fruit of the labours of the Mennonites? Yet, in days gone by this territory was known as the "American desert."

To whom belongs the credit of having transformed in prosperous districts the land situated to the west of Dauphin, after this land had been refused by everybody? To the Galicians again, and this without any assistance.

Sir Clifford Sifton placed no faith in the immigrant who required assistance. All those brought over here by him are to-day among the most prosperous, the most contented and they make excellent citizens; these people immigrated to this country because they were tired of the continuous European wars, the vexing taxation and the ruinous legislation they had to put up with; they came to Canada to enjoy freedom and peace and they were not disappointed. They show themselves equally worthy in industrial life; their honesty rapidly promotes them to the management of affairs; their honesty, I say, is proverbial, they have no debts, their obligations are duly met; even the rare instances of government loans for digging wells and for irrigation have been faithfully met to the very last cent, a thing quite exceptional, it seems, when the government is the creditor.

We have no immigration problem in Canada, our financial situation does not require it and the markets at our disposal are ample for the rapid development of our country. It would be folly to risk creating here the problem of unemployment such as it exists in Europe, simply for the satisfaction of relieving others of their troubles. The cooperation of the various members of the Empire seeking to spread prosperity, is certainly an excellent thing, but not to the extent of burdening ourselves with the economic difficulties of others, created by the designs of their financiers; the solution of our own difficulties should suffice.

Notwithstanding all these considerations, I admit that we could allow certain classes of immigrants to come and settle on our vacant lands; however, on the other hand I strongly side with the views of Sir Clifford Sifton who had very little faith in the assisted immigrant, preferring greatly the individual coming from the farm and going to the farm without assistance, fortified by his pluck and determination to work and seconded by both his knowledge and practice of rural thrift, essential conditions to success, as the Abbé Bilodeau points out in his treatise on the emigration of our own people.

I have no faith in the system in which the British immigrant receives \$45 for himself, \$18.25 for his wife and his children under 17 years old, and \$15 for every girl or woman coming to this country as a domestic. Endeavouring to place on the land people who have not thrifty habits, is fruitless; the whole federal treasury would be necessary to cater to their wants and then it would all end in failure. It is a serious problem to bring over to this country immigrants whose sole aim is to obtain credit here and there and on the slightest pretext, to be in everybody's debt and repay nobody; to insist on rural and bank loans, state insurance, tax exemption and railway stations at their door. I state that such immigration should not be encouraged, because those people will never be happy and always be very indifferent Canadians. It is not good policy to bring over in large numbers the unemployed of other countries, British or not, at the risk of seeing the salaries of our workers decrease to the extent of their not being able to meet the demands of the cost of living; no more than it is good policy to seek overproduction without having, first, the markets to dispose of such products.

The only problem that should need our attention is that of the emigration of our people and the settlement of our land by the native sons of Canada. In order to solve this