

decreasing. We felt that in the circumstances surrounding the North Atlantic Trading Company it was not a matter for argument, it was a matter in which either the company produced the results, or we ceased to do business with them. When I found that the immigration from Scandinavia did not justify the special payment being made to the North Atlantic Company in order to induce that immigration, it appeared to me, judging by the results, that that company was not carrying out its contract and we cancelled the contract.

Mr. ARMAND LAVERGNE. I never said that the Scandinavian immigrants were any worse than others from continental Europe, but that I preferred immigrants from the British Isles and from France and Belgium, because they were already nearly assimilated.

Mr. OLIVER. I think my hon. friend hardly remembers everything he did say. But I think he will agree that the people of Scandinavia are not inferior in civilization or in any of the attributes of civilization, and capacity for free government, to the people even of France and Belgium, or the British Isles; that industrially, commercially, politically and educationally they are quite equal to any other civilized race. I have stated the reason why the contract with the North Atlantic Trading Company was cancelled.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. What was the reason? I did not quite catch it.

Mr. OLIVER. I say that, in the first place, the stress of requirement had passed, and it was in order now for us to consider the possibility of controlling the immigration rather than merely securing a large volume of it. Then, finding that owing to the existence of a combine amongst the steamship lines sailing from the ports through which the immigrants were secured in the North Atlantic Trading Company contract—owing to an agreement between them which provided that the companies should divide the results no matter whether they carried passengers or not, it appeared to me that the control of that immigration had passed out of our hands. And when in addition I found, as it appeared to me from the returns that the immigration for which we were specially paying was either stationary or decreasing, I was justified in assuming that the North Atlantic Trading Company was not carrying out its contract, and the contract was cancelled.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Is that the same reason of a different reason to that which the minister gave last year?

Mr. OLIVER. I think if my hon. friend will look into the 'Hansard' he will satisfy himself on that point. I do not think my hon. friend is as gracious as he might be in asking the question in that way.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I thought it was a very polite question.

Mr. OLIVER. I must disagree with my hon. friend. Then in regard to what my hon. friend calls a contract. The order in council recently passed to provide for the payment of bonuses to agents on immigrants from continental Europe, makes provision for carrying on such a propaganda as may be possible in these different countries, and as may be desirable according to the conditions in our country, by utilizing the services of booking agents where those services can be satisfactorily utilized. Now it is true that a large number of people are coming from the British Isles, it is true that a large number of people are coming from the United States, nevertheless it is true that in Canada today there never was such a demand for unskilled labour as there is at the present moment. As a matter of fact the great railroad projects which are in hand for the development of Canada are largely handicapped if not at an actual standstill, because of a lack of necessary unskilled labour. It seemed to us therefore that although we were getting immigrants to settle our lands from the States and from the British islands, there was also room for immigrants from continental Europe to settle our lands, and there was above all room for employment of thousands and thousands of unskilled labourers to build railroads and who after having done their work, with the money that they had received on that work, would be in a position to go on to the land and become good settlers and good citizens of Canada.

We therefore thought, although we had cancelled the North Atlantic Trading Company's contract, it was right and fair, in view of all these circumstances, that we should take means to utilize the services of booking agents in any country in continental Europe from which we might think it desirable or possible to secure suitable immigrants to meet the present urgent requirements of this country. Therefore, we passed this order in council which permits the payment of a ten shilling bonus for an adult and of a five shilling bonus for a child from certain of these countries in continental Europe. These payments are permitted to be made directly to the booking agent on exactly the same principle as payments may be made to booking agents in Great Britain. The conditions are the same in all particulars except that the bonus is only one-half what it is in regard to a British immigrant. My hon. friend may believe if he likes that the difference is because of the extra cost of assimilating continental Europeans as compared with the cost of assimilating British immigrants. There is no contract with any one. We have taken authority which will enable us to pay a bonus to people whom we may see fit to do busi-