

gratify him. Yesterday a question was put to me, asking whether I had any news regarding the application of the new Act, and I am in receipt of the following letter dated Taber, April 5, 1907.

Your telegram to hand. As soon as apprised of the character of the new law bearing on such matters as we are contending with, I notified the men that the mine was open. They are now working. I hereby make application to the Department of Labour, through you, that a board of conciliation be appointed to inquire into the causes of our disagreement as quickly as possible.

C. DIXON,

Canada West Coal and Coke Company.

I have further good news for the House and country. As you are aware, we were threatened with a general strike in the coal mines out west. Strikes were threatened on the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company, the West Canadian Collieries, Limited, the Canadian and American Coal and Coke Company, and the International Coal and Coke Company, employing a total of 2,770 persons. On being apprised of the new law, the men have returned to work without striking and have all applied, through their president, for a board of investigation. I am glad therefore to announce that there will be no general strike before a complete investigation is had.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. One, or several boards?

Mr. LEMIEUX. I am informed by my deputy that the miners and the mine owners have agreed to submit the disputes to one board for all the different mines.

#### IMMIGRATION POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Mr. A. LAVERGNE (Montmagny). I desire to call attention to a matter concerning which I gave notice some weeks ago, namely, the re-establishment of bonuses on immigration. Last year, when the contract with the North Atlantic Trading Company was cancelled, the principal reason given why this contract had been entered into was that the government did not any longer desire to deal with individual booking agents or steamship companies. When, therefore, I read in the Montreal 'Star' that a policy of that kind was going to be taken up again and that the government were going to make a new contract with certain shipping companies or booking agents, I was more than surprised. I gave notice then that I proposed to discuss to-day the policy of the government on immigration, especially as regards bonuses.

I will try to prove to the House that the policy of paying bonuses for immigrants is, in the first place, a dangerous policy; secondly, that there is an unjust distribution of the funds in bringing immigration into this country, and, finally, that the policy on which the government has en-

tered is a reckless and unwise one. I say that the system of paying bonuses on immigrants to this country is a false and dangerous system. It is a false system in so far as it has for its object the filling up of this country. It will be evident at once to any man of thought that the idea of paying bonuses on immigrants will have the certain consequence of bringing in men of poor quality. The steamship companies which we make our immigration agents have no other desire than to get the premium or passage fare; they care not where the immigrant comes from, what his character is, what his health is; their only care is to bring a large number of persons to this country so that they can receive a greater number of premiums. I would say more than that. In my opinion there are only two classes of desirable immigrants that we need in this country; those are immigrants that come from the British isles and those that come from France or Belgium. They are easily assimilated; they are already under the same laws and civilization that we enjoy in this country. The British immigrant or the French immigrant when he comes to Canada finds practically the same laws and the same civilization with which he was acquainted in his own country. On the other hand, the immigrant who is brought here by booking agents from all parts of continental Europe comes to Canada with an entirely different idea of civilization to that which prevails in this country. More than that, not only is the policy of paying bonuses to immigrants a dangerous policy, but it has already had a tendency to endanger the quality of immigrants we can have from the British isles. I will not give my own opinion, but I will give the opinion of a man who resides in the western part of Canada, who is an English immigrant himself. In the Toronto 'Globe' of Tuesday, January 22, 1907, I find this, speaking about immigrants that come from the British isles under the bonus system:

Vancouver, British Columbia, January 14.—I fear the Salvation Army immigration scheme more than the Sikh invasion. I am sure mischief and expense to the province will come if this Salvation Army scheme is accepted.

Thus remarks Captain Andrew Hamilton, a British officer, who had such experience with emigration from the east end of London to Canada before he settled in British Columbia. In view of 'General' Booth's forthcoming visit to the Pacific coast his statements are sure to attract a good deal of attention.

Settlement in villages or farm colonies is all right; then the community bear their own burdens, and the lazy or drunken are located and treated by their own patrons, but fancy emptying Whitechapel or Hoxton into Vancouver because the east end wanted to see the world or have a change.

In strong terms Captain Hamilton exposes the plan of the British Columbia government to let loose on this province thousands of the sub-