

pledged his reputation, of no great weight to be sure, but such as it was, to the statement that within five years these people would be among the most desirable class of our settlers. I say he has failed to appreciate the objections of the people to that class of settlers. Even the Liberal candidates at the late provincial contest, knowing how unpopular these people were, attempted to shoulder the responsibility on to the late Conservative administration; they repudiated all responsibility on behalf of the Greenway government for the location of these people on the western prairies. The *Winnipeg Free Press*, the organ of the Minister of the Interior, a paper which, by the way, deserves the thanks of every Conservative for having assisted the Minister of the Interior in placing the Hon. Hugh John Macdonald where he is to-day, attempted to prove that it was entirely owing to the policy of the late Minister of the Interior, the Hon. T. M. Daly, that the off-scourings of Southern Europe were dumped on to those prairies. The Minister of the Interior seems hard to be convinced on this question, but I can assure him that while the people of the west are desirous to see the country peopled by a good and desirable class of settlers, men with whom the people can feel that they have something in common, people of the Anglo-Saxon race whom we know by experience will become successful settlers like the Icelanders and the Scandinavians, they do object to the wholesale immigration of those Slavs from Southern Europe, who are reared in superstition, ignorance and filth, whose morals are of a low type, and who are grouped in large colonies where they may retain their own habits, and customs and language, refusing to consolidate with the general public, which if it took place, would have the effect of improving their condition. No doubt one object of the Minister of the Interior in encouraging a large immigration of those people was for the purpose of enfranchising them at the earliest possible moment and utilizing them, through the instrumentality of his officials, for party purposes. Now, however, that their own Franchise Act is about to react as a boomerang against themselves, by the adoption of the provincial lists, and as it is the intention of the present government of Manitoba to apply an educational test and refuse to enfranchise those foreigners until they have been long enough in the country to understand British institutions and a British form of government, and to know what the ballot means, the hon. minister may decide that further importations of a similar character are not desirable. I saw an article in a paper to-day stating that fifty of these Doukhobors were leaving Winnipeg for California, whither they were being taken by an immigration agent to work at 50 cents a day. The immigration authorities are becoming alarmed, as there

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are signs of a general movement in the same direction. The reason given by the Doukhobors for leaving Manitoba is that the country is too cold, a reason which I do not admit, because the country is a very comfortable country to live in.

Now, the Minister of the Interior made another trip to the west immediately prior to his departure across the ocean, no doubt to count the noses of those who have survived the election of December 7. The loss of those six constituencies out of nine in his own Dominion constituency has proved to be a sharp thorn in his side. So he goes westward to hold an organization meeting and see if he could not regain those laurels which he lost on December 7. At that meeting he made a speech, during the course of which he made some remarkable statements, remarkable in the light of his previous utterances upon these questions. During the course of his speech he got in a backhanded slap at his former friend, Mr. Greenway.

In order to clear his own skirts of any complicity in those secret railway deals perpetrated upon the people by the late Liberal administration, he says: I have nothing whatever to do with it. I was never consulted in reference to your Manitoba railway policy except cursorily. But, says he, I feel confident that my friend Mr. Cameron would not deliberately tell a falsehood upon this question. If he stated officially that a certain line of policy was beneficial, I believe that was true. But he had not a word to say about Mr. Greenway. He had known Mr. Greenway's record in the past for veracity, and he had not a good word to say about him. He only hoped that when the local legislature would meet Mr. Greenway would make a statement and give a plausible explanation to suit his own friends. That is all he had to say for Mr. Greenway.

But what did he state in reference to the duty upon agricultural implements? Probably if there was one question upon which the Liberals were united in 1896 it was in regard to the duty on agricultural implements. Every constituency was placarded with the words: 'Vote for the Liberal candidate and free agricultural implements.' They made a speciality of it, and they obtained the votes of thousands of our farmers upon this question that they would not have otherwise received, men who had broken away from their old-time party proclivities, and gave their votes to the Liberal candidates upon the strength of those pledges. When the Conservatives tried to persuade them that the Conservative government had been the true tariff reformers, by reducing the duty from 35 to 20 per cent, the Liberals would not hear of it, they stated that 20 per cent was still an outrageously high protective duty, that manufactures were being built up at the expense of the farmers in the west, that if the