

rural population is composed chiefly of Scandinavians and Danes, and next in number come Welshmen with some English and Scotch settlers. These people are no more American to-day than when they left their native hills and valleys. They are neither Republicans or Democrats, nor do they in any way enter into the feelings which animate other people in a national sense. They are merely Mormons. They never can become loyal to any system of Government nor affiliate with any other people. They are taught to believe and do believe that Mormonism is destined by the Almighty to spread over the whole earth, and that the only true Government, and that to which they alone owe allegiance, is the Government of the Church. The Church system is the most arbitrary, exacting and tyrannical of any system I ever heard of among English-speaking people. The system was the creation of a few cunning Yankees, and I can now understand why they so zealously sought for converts among the ignorant masses of Wales and the North of Europe instead of the populous sections of America. No people of medium intelligence could be brought to submit to the kind of rule which Mormonism imposes on its adherents. Mormons do not go to law with each other in the ordinary sense. The bishops or heads of states hold courts called "bishops' courts" where all matters in dispute are settled. As already stated, they have no politics, but vote as directed by some one whose authority in that respect all recognize. Polygamy is not alone the objection to the Mormon system. Every Mormon imagines himself, or is taught to believe himself a martyr, and that the day of his emancipation will come when the Church triumphs and takes the place of all other government systems. In fine, the system is utterly alien and antagonistic to any system of enlightened free government; hence the extraordinary means being resorted to by Congress and the Government to annihilate the unnatural and strange monster. It is a strange spectacle indeed at the end of the nineteenth century that the Government of free America, in order to check or suppress Mormonism, finds it necessary to resort to the disfranchisement of a people whose only crime is adherence to a faith they have been taught and which is a product of their own country.

"The Edmonds Law has not by any means been a dead letter. Every court is occupied with cases under the Act, and the capacity of the penitentiary is taxed to make room for the new convicts. It is only, however, in towns and cities that polygamists can be caught, and even then only by the sharp exercise of the detective's art. Away out in the beautiful valleys of Utah, among towering mountains through which the valleys can only be reached by certain passes, are scattered more than two hundred thousand Mormons living exclusively by themselves, and who have but little dread of the Edmonds Law. The detective would be cute indeed, and courageous too, who will make any headway in breaking up polygamy in those remote and secluded valleys. If one believes Mormon newspapers and those who speak for that people, polygamy is no longer practised. No Gentile in Utah has any faith in such statements, and if your Minister of the Interior were here for a short time, he would learn something of the value of the word or even the oath of a Mormon in matters of this kind. 'Do not lie to each other nor cheat each other; but hold your own with Gentiles anyway you can,' was the advice of Brigham Young years ago, which advice is faithfully adhered to.

"Mormons make but little efforts in the direction of education—I mean in the way of educating the masses. It is true that in town 5 are to be found educated, well trained-men, but they are the parties who profit by the system, and it is far from their desire to educate the masses.

"I observe what has taken place in the Parliament at Ottawa in relation to the Mormons of the North-

West. The imposition of more severe penalties for polygamists will not meet the case. Two years or ten it will be all the same. Mormon cunning will be equal to any law in that respect that may be adopted. The law here, as stated, is rigorously enforced, yet it is scoffed at. It seems to me before allowing Mormonism to obtain a firm footing in the North-West, that the question is of sufficient importance to the people of Canada to justify the expense of a commission to this country to obtain information on the whole question. Mormonism in this country has had but forty years start, yet it has already cost the Government millions, and the end is yet remote. Prompt energetic action now on the part of the Canadian Government would be an act of wise foresight. Should the time come when the Mormon people in the Canadian North-West will become a power in elections, rely on it that the party who will pander to their interests will get them."

I hope the House will excuse me for reading that letter, but it was so much to the point and so interesting that the excuse will be readily granted. With facts like those before the House, hon. members will be disposed to take the view indicated by the hon. gentleman from Victoria and make one or two amendments in this Bill.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—Does the Bill propose to have a retroactive effect on those who have already come into the country, believing that there is no law here against plurality of wives? I am very glad that the 8th clause has been introduced into this Bill. I remember having called the attention of the Minister of Justice to this offence, cases of which I had found in my own practice, and no law could be found against it. It appeared to me to be a singular thing that such an offence should be in existence so long without any law on the subject.

HON. MR. MACDONALD—Mormons who come into this country and continue to live as Mormons, and are convicted of the practice are punished accordingly.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—My hon. friend will see that section 5 provides as follows:—

"5. Every male person who, in public or private, commits, or is a party to a commission of, or procures or attempts to procure the commission by any male person of, any act of gross indecency with another male person, is guilty of a misdemeanor and liable to five years' imprisonment, and to be whipped."

It seems to me that that covers the offence my hon. friend has referred to. Of course the Bill is not directed against any particular religion or sect or Mormon more than anybody else; it is directed against polygamists. In so far as Mormons are polygamists of course it attaches to them.