

and there are those who are purchasing land who would not accept it as a gift because about 11,000 acres of it is nothing but low, swampy land. I mention this to bear out the statement I made last session as to the price of the land. This and other statements which have been made by me can be verified and the information upon which they are based cannot be disputed.

Amendment (Mr. Bradbury) negated on division.

NEGRO IMMIGRANTS.

Mr. A. H. CLARKE (South Essex). Mr. Speaker, I desire to call attention to a matter respecting another race of people—I mean the negro. Representing a large number of this race of people, who are honest, law-abiding, good citizens, I was very much surprised, in common with my colleagues, who represent the adjoining county of Kent, to find an article on the front page of this morning's edition of the 'Citizen,' the leading Conservative paper of the city of Ottawa, to the following effect:

WOULD STOP NEGROES.

(Canadian Press Despatch).

Winnipeg, Man., March 21.—Officers of the Immigration Department left to-day for Emerson, on the border, to stop the entry into Canada of 165 negroes from Oklahoma, who intended to settle in Canada's Northwest. The railway company has appealed to Washington and Consul-General Jones has been instructed to go down and see that they get through.

If it is correct that the officers of this government have taken the steps to prevent the entrance into this country of these people on account of their colour, then I think it will require a very great deal of explanation from the department to justify it. Coloured people in my experience have been amongst the most loyal citizens of this country. They have been true to the British flag and I think they are worthy to be reckoned amongst the people of Canada. Surely, the large areas of this country are sufficient to entitle us to take in this class of people who have not the privileges of other classes. It has always been the boast of British institutions that unfortunate men will find a haven within our borders. Representing a large number of the coloured people, I certainly protest against any rule which would exclude them on account of their colour, and I think that before supplies are granted it is only proper that a statement should be made by the government, or by the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver), with regard to this important matter.

Mr. OLIVER. Mr. Speaker—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I think it will be necessary to have the consent of the

Mr. MOLLOY.

House before the minister can speak again unless it is in answer to a question.

Mr. OLIVER. With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the consent of the House to give my hon. friend from Essex (Mr. Clarke) the information that he desires:

Some hon. MEMBERS. Carried.

Mr. OLIVER. I have noticed in the papers recently paragraphs of something of the nature of this one alluded to by my hon. friend from Essex. I have only to say that, in so far as these paragraphs state or have stated that the Dominion government has issued orders through its officials to prevent the entry of negroes into Canada, these paragraphs are absolutely and entirely incorrect. No such instructions have been issued, no such action is being taken. I would assume that the paragraphs are being circulated unjustifiably for illegitimate purposes. It may be, however, that they are being circulated on account of a misunderstanding or misapprehension of the policy of the department which I may be permitted to explain in a very few words. The immigration policy of Canada to-day is restricted, exclusive, and selective as compared with the former policy of indiscriminate immigration. We have exclusion officers stationed along the boundary between Canada and the United States and at our ocean ports, and under the laws and the regulations authorized by them, the exclusion officers take measures to prevent the entry of all persons who may be considered undesirable under our law, without any distinction of race, colour, or previous condition of servitude. I wish to have the matter thoroughly understood—in the administration of the exclusion provisions of the law there is taken into account the question of whether the proposed immigrant is ordinarily considered desirable or ordinarily considered undesirable. The immigrant ordinarily considered desirable is the man who wishes to go on the land, and if he does not want to go on the land the presumption towards him is not so favourable.

Mr. FOSTER. The presumption does not go so far as to say he is undesirable.

Mr. OLIVER. No, but there are many cases where the admission or exclusion of an immigrant depends on a strict or a lax interpretation of the law, so that if the immigrant is of what we would call the desirable class it may be that the restrictive desirable class then they are administered laxly, and if he is of the presumably less desirable class then they are administered more restrictedly. Beyond that there are no instructions to the immigration officers, but they are expected to act according to the instructions they have.