

to be just a little bit careful about admitting these people. I am sure he would not think it desirable to have these foreigners settle in Canada and retain their language and customs that are not what we expect from good Canadian citizens. It is a German sect, I believe. They retain their own language and object to military service. In fact, they do not even desire the franchise, and will not vote or take any part in the government of this country. I am told they are undesirable citizens.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: I do not think I have abused the indulgence of the House this session, but I should like to make a few remarks on this subject, and I hope you will not censure me, Mr. Chairman, for taking up a few minutes. There seems to be an impression in this House that the only immigration that comes to Canada is from the British Isles. I have all the respect in the world for the people of the British Isles, but I want to say that some of our best immigrants have come from other places. When this item was up some days ago, mention was made of "the man with the sheepskin coat," and it was said that the foreign element comprised a high percentage of the jail-birds and convicts in this country. That might be true, but, nevertheless, the man with the sheepskin coat has been a big factor in developing this country. He has built our railroads, and the sewers in our cities; he has done all the dirty work. In western Canada I do not think we could get our crops threshed if it were not for the man with the sheepskin coat.

I want to say just a word or two about those we call the Ukrainians. They come from central Europe, from Galicia, I think. We as Canadians are to blame a great deal if we have these people in jail in our country. I believe that our political system has really given a great opportunity to debauch these people and lower their standards, instead of raising them to ours. I want to read a little article taken from the Ukrainian of the week of May 22. I do not want to leave the impression that I am throwing slurs at any political party, but we all know that in political parties there are unscrupulous politicians. This article says:

The Ukrainians get the worst deal of all other nationalities inhabiting Manitoba under the party governments. In the first place because the parties—both the Conservatives and Liberals—

Of course, we were fewer.

—never tried to enlighten the Ukrainians in political matters—

At this point, let me say that my own observation has been that just previous to an election these people are brought up and given naturalization papers by the hundred, although they do not know what they mean. I do not believe they could read one if they were asked, and that is where we fail. The editorial continues:

—but rather demoralized them during election campaigns by lavishing money rewards, by offering strong drink, and by promising to build roads, etc. for their votes.

Mr. MARTELL: When did this naturalization take place?

Mr. BEAUBIEN: At different times.

Mr. MARTELL: Before the last election?

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Before all elections. It goes on:

This dishonest, unpatriotic and shameful work of the parties finally caused the Ukrainians to consider elections as opportunity for making a little money or getting some other rewards. They were granted naturalization papers without being educated as to the real value and importance of these papers; they were told that the papers entitled them to vote—although the parties bribed their votes. In short our settlers, until comparatively recent times were fine political instruments in the hands of the Anglo-Saxons; whichever party expended more money on buying their votes, that party prided in its victory and glories in its domination. Although as we say, neither party tried to get the Ukrainian settler acquainted with Canadian citizenship, with Canadian ideals and relationship; neither government cared to inform the Ukrainians of their political rights and duties; in addition they were forbidden to use their own language, the only language they could speak then, and read their own newspapers which were their only news of obtaining information concerning citizen rights and duties.

Mr. MARTELL: Were not these people disfranchised in 1917?

Mr. BEAUBIEN: I am coming to that, if my hon. friend will wait a moment. A good many of these people were given naturalization papers and made British subjects. Then in 1917 a lot of them offered for service during the war. I know some of these boys myself. Take our Mennonite settlers and even our Ukrainian settlers; in Red Cross work they were very active. Take the Mennonites in the district of Steinback in my riding. They sent tons and tons of bologna sausages over to the starving Russians.