

agents. Now the minister says it is better to pay individual agents than a company. Circumstances change, says the minister; but it seems to me that the mind of the hon. gentleman is changing quite too fast, even for modern times and modern circumstances, with the development of electricity and all other means of rapid manifestations. Now if the hon. gentleman would show us what is the difference between the circumstances as they existed last year when he preferred the policy of paying bonuses to a company instead of individual agents, and the circumstances of to-day which make it better to pay to agents instead of a company, we would not be so much mystified. But he has not deigned to inform us. He has in a somewhat satirical manner pointed out what he styles the inaccuracies of my hon. friend from Montmagny (Mr. Armand Lavergne), but he does not deign to tell us what were the circumstances which allowed his ministerial mind not only to change so much from the independent mind of the member of Alberta, but to change so greatly from the ministerial mind of the Minister of the Interior from 1906 to 1907.

The minister has told us very often, not only to-day, but on previous occasions, that circumstances had changed in the last few years with regard to immigration. I admit they have, but in what way? The very argument which the minister made with regard to immigration from the British islands applies to a large extent to immigration from all countries. I think every one in this House will admit that the main change which has occurred to warrant a modification of our immigration policy is that Canada is better known to the world to-day than she was some years ago. Canada's trade is better known, her agricultural and mining resources are better known; and therefore if that basic change of circumstances means anything with regard to our immigration policy, it means that the time has come when we should stand upon our dignity as a nation and step out before the world, instead of advertising our country through more or less questionable agencies as a patent medicine vendor advertises his nostrum and invites all sick and ailing people to come and be cured. Sir, the minister has taken pride in the fact that under this order in council he was discriminating with regard to the class of immigrants which were coming in, and he read the words which I will read again.

The immigrants for which this government offers a bounty and bonus or a prize to booking agents, are :

Farmers, farm labourers, gardeners, stablemen, carters, railway surfacemen, navvies, or miners, who have signified their intention of following farming or railway construction work in Canada, and female domestic servants.

That is a pretty broad ground. Let us come to the facts. How will this operate? You have a booking agent in London or

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you have ten or twenty of them. You have so many in Liverpool, in Amsterdam, in Hamburg, in Antwerp, in different parts of Europe. According to what the minister says in regard to immigration work in foreign countries, to which this order in council applies exclusively, they are not allowed to go outside of their offices to canvas immigrants. They must stay there until the immigrant comes to buy his ticket. I have very grave doubts, once this inducement is offered to a booking agent to make so much money per head of all the people he may ship to Canada, whether he will confine himself to the letter of this order in council or whether he will not put himself in the sad position, as stated by some ministerial supporters, of committing suicide or going to gaol. I have my grave doubts as to whether these booking agents, immediately you offer them this inducement, will stay in their offices. But let us suppose that they stay in their offices. Let us suppose that they conform to the letter of this order in council. What will be the result? Here is a man in Hamburg who does not know what tramp or other person will come from Prussia or Silesia to his office to get a ticket for the United States or elsewhere. The agent has only to sell him a ticket to Canada to get \$2.50 and he will say to him: Of course you are a railway worker or a navvy, here is your ticket for Canada and you will make a declaration that you are going there to work at railway construction. The booking agent will receive his \$2.50. By what human means does the minister pretend that he will control the work of these booking agents so that after five minutes conversation they will be able to find out what occupation an immigrant may have been engaged in three hundred or four hundred miles away from his office? All nationalities and occupations will come. It may be that a large number will be sent to Canada as farmers or farm labourers or railway workers or navvies because forsooth they have passed through some of the criminal courts and they have been condemned either to go to gaol or to leave for America. There is nothing in the order in council that prevents a booking agent from making his \$2.50 out of that kind of immigrant.

In regard to female immigration, those who are familiar with the social life of London and other English cities, those who have read some of the reports of the London County Council know very well that a large female population is sent every year from continental Europe to London composed of women who have passed through criminal courts. They are sent to England and then they are taken up by the Salvation Army. Now, I have the greatest admiration for the devoted work of the Salvation Army, for everything they have endeavoured to do to raise to a higher moral