

United States. These advertisements are not paid for by the government, but they are paid for by the land companies and after the land companies advertise their lands they send their agents to work amongst the people. After the land companies have induced people to come to this country to buy land these commissioned agents come along and reap the benefit of that work and the people of Canada are the poorer for it. I think it is folly for the government to spend so much money in the way they are spending it. I think it would be wise if the hon. minister would abolish altogether the system of employing agents on commission. In fact, I believe that the deputy minister has under consideration the possibility of doing away altogether with the commissioned agents because the fact that he reduced the number within two years from 500 to 280 and that only 50 have latterly done any work is a pretty good guarantee that they are of very little use. These 50 are only going to those parts of the country where the land agents have worked up the business for them, they give intending immigrants orders for tickets and draw the pay, they are benefited by that, and we are that much the poorer.

House resumed at eight o'clock.

#### After Recess.

House resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. WM. ROCHE (Halifax). Mr. Speaker, I am sorry it was so near six o'clock when I rose to speak, because I only intended to make a few observations upon one point or two in the speech of my hon. friend (Mr. Wilson). If he had been personally acquainted with the subject which he was discussing, and if the circumstances he related had taken place under his own observation, I would be disposed to pay a great deal of deference to the opinion of the hon. gentleman, but, as he obtained his information from a distant source and from channels which are subject to misrepresentation and distortion, I am compelled to fall back upon my own personal knowledge and to have some doubt with regard to the statements of my hon. friend and the conclusions which he has drawn. If I followed his argument correctly, it was that this government was blame-worthy for introducing a number of undesirable immigrants into this country, and that the expense of procuring those immigrants was disproportionate to their numbers and value. As to the question of expense, the means of procuring the immigrants, and the number of officials employed, the Minister of the Interior will no doubt deal with that. I think I may say without any egotism that so far as the immigrants are concerned who come to the port of Halifax, I have as good means of observing them as any-

body else. From the fact that the port of Halifax is used by the immigrant steamers before the other ports in Canada are opened for navigation, the greater portion of the Galician immigrants arrived at that port on their way to the North-west Territories. I see every one of these immigrants in the vessel when the doctors go on board to examine them for contagious disease. I see them afterwards when they march in single file over the gangway and proceed to the dock. I see them afterwards when they are in the immigrant shed. We go amongst them and examine them when they are in little knots, and when they get out their cooking utensils and prepare their food for their families. They are examined again singly by the officials when they come to the wicket to exchange their tickets, and we see them when they go into the cars to take their departure for the North-west. Now, I think that a person who has an opportunity of examining these immigrants five or six times over, is as capable of forming an intelligent judgment as to them (if he has the right faculties) as one who has never seen them and who takes his information from hearsay. On the whole I think I have seen the majority of these immigrants for the past five years. Formerly they were introduced promiscuously into the United States with very little restriction. Now, the United States authorities have set up a standard of examination for the disease of the eyes called trachoma, and the American officials are very diligent in detecting and rejecting those who suffer from that disease. Until two years ago no test for that disease was made in Canada, and perhaps a number of Galicians and others suffering from trachoma got into the North-west and afterwards may have presented themselves on the borders of the United States for admission into that country. But those must have been immigrants who were introduced into Canada about two years ago, or they may have been immigrants who had been introduced through other ports than Halifax. Perhaps they are more lax in Montreal and Quebec than in Halifax, but certainly those people could not, in the numbers designated, have arrived in Canada under the regulations which now exist. The regulations now set up by the Canadian government are amply sufficient for the rejection of all those who are diseased, and for the securing of a proper class of immigrants, valuable to Canada. I have no doubt that there are some acute Democrats in the congress of the United States who sometimes point their fingers to the items of expenditure and say that there must be a very large amount expended for immigration, that the salaries of the officials appointed by the Republican government are very high and that they do not earn their money. I take it for granted that these officials are interested in their own salaries and that they wish to impress