

answered the letter on the 30th, as follows:

Your letter of the 9th received to-day, it is impossible for me to take part in the inquiry which it is desired to impose on me at a fixed date without giving me the time and the means of making my witnesses come from a distance without having further received the assurance that the inquiry commissioner will be a person capable of understanding and taking the testimonies in French, without having even given me your consent that the testimonies may be given under oath and without that before entering into the merit of the question what is the plea of the defendant, preliminary procedure imperative for preparing my proof. You are especially referred to my letter of 5th March, I stated that I will hold to the propositions that it contains and ask you again if they are accepted or refused.

(Sgd.) L. STEIN.

The inquiry went on. Fortier came to Quebec. It was entirely ex-parte. The employees of the department in Quebec were examined as witnesses, and under the eye of their officer, Mr. Lavoie, gave the evidence that Mr. Lavoie would like them to give, I suppose. I would call attention to this one fact: In the evidence given there was a witness named Lebel, and in the report of the inquiry he is represented as saying:

That he was always at hand on the landing of immigrants in the early morning, and if any such thing happened as the charges described he would know about it. It would cause scandal. It would be absolutely contrary to anything that one would expect of Dr. Lavoie. Witness did not believe the charge and would not believe it even if made on oath by Mr. Stein.

That is what Mr. Lebel is represented as having said before the government officer, who is making the inquiry in Quebec. Here is a declaration of LeBel. It is in French, but I shall endeavour to translate it:

I, the undersigned, declare that during the inquiry taken in Quebec in the month of March last in the immigration shed in Quebec, inquiring of certain accusations forwarded by Mr. Stein, first clerk of the immigration office at Quebec against Dr. Lavoie, the Federal Agent of Immigration at Quebec, I declare I never said at that inquiry that I would not believe Stein under oath.

So you see the employer or interpreter put in his mouth words that he claimed he never said, and this is testified before two witnesses, Mr. Paquette, the accountant of the department, and Mr. L., a clerk on the Intercolonial Railway. Then the declaration of LeBel shows what a farce the inquiry in Quebec was. No one could

rely on what was said there. It was an ex-parte inquiry altogether. In the meantime another party, Mr. O'Flaherty, sent over to the department a complaint against the said Lavoie, in which he put forward his charges, and he winds up by saying that:

In the summer season of 1908-9 foreign immigrants, especially Galicians were drastically treated. The latter were allowed to be forced to go to work against their will and interest on the Transcontinental railway construction who were not eligible to land in the country for non-compliance with the immigration laws, inasmuch as they did not possess the necessary money that entitled them to land. This was an absolute contravention of the immigration laws, said to be aided and abetted in, by the government at Ottawa. Who allowed the presence of a contractor's agent named one Oscar Bliss to constantly attend and make his office in the immigration buildings, and even the freedom of the inspection rooms to conjoin and engage these foreign immigrants to work on the Transcontinental railway construction, and thus unlawfully secure the otherwise unlawful entrance of the said foreign immigrants into the country.

That the said contractor's agent with the knowledge and consent of Dr. J. P. Lavoie, was permitted to collect the railroad tickets in possession of the said foreign immigrants, held by them to reach their Canadian destination in the west and northwest part of Canada, retain such tickets and likewise all the moneys in possession of the said foreign immigrants in trust. It is alleged that the said contractor's agent later had those tickets exchanged with the Canadian Pacific railway ticket agent for tickets that carried the foreign immigrants to La Tuque. Furthermore that said immigrants later on left this work, came to Quebec and were unable to regain their railway tickets or moneys they placed in trust with the contractor's agent.

Those are the grave facts, and I think under the circumstances, without saying that they are true, or taking any position against the Quebec agent, Dr. Lavoie, or for him, but taking into consideration the accusations brought against him, and against the way he keeps the agency at Quebec, the government in the public interest, and for the benefit of the immigrants, should have a royal commission and inquire into the matter. That is why I make the motion which is on the order paper.

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE—I have no mandate whatever to defend Dr. Lavoie or any one else, against the accusation made out by my hon. friend. I know the gentlemen who are mentioned very well. They have had a little family quarrel at the