

the attention of the Minister of Immigration and Colonization to the class of settlers that we have through the interior of British Columbia, that at the present time are not complying with the laws of the province, that are not complying, as I believe they should, with the laws of the whole Dominion. This class of settlers to which I refer is termed the Doukhobors, if I may use that term. We have in the constituency that I represent somewhere in the neighbourhood of two to three thousand of this class of settlers, who came in some few years ago and settled under a colonization scheme. During the past few years they have isolated themselves in their own colonies. They have not complied with the laws of the province respecting births, deaths and marriages, and in the past year they have become a class of people that are continually filling our police courts and our civil courts more than any other class of people that we have in the district.

We, having had experience with different nationalities during the past few years, feel that these questions should be brought to the attention of the federal authorities, so that in some small way they may be able to profit by that experience in working out their immigration policy. Within the past three or four years these settlers have burned down practically every school that we have in the district, and although I am not here to place the blame upon any particular class, I am placing this upon Hansard so that the Dominion of Canada or some other part of this country may benefit by our experiences. In the district which I represent somewhere in the neighbourhood of eight or ten school buildings have been wiped out by these people, and it is a well known fact that this was done by no other class of people than the Doukhobors themselves. We feel that this is not a healthy condition for settlers to build up in any province, and that the Immigration department should endeavour not to bring in settlers that will produce this state of affairs. In British Columbia and, I believe, in every other province, we want a class of settlers that will comply with the laws of the province and of the Dominion and that, if possible, in time will assimilate with our people and become good Canadian citizens. As regards the constituency which I have the honour to represent, I feel that we are not receiving the class of settler that we should receive. I have stated, for the benefit of the hon. members, the position as regards our school problem. This is only one of our problems, and in that connection I would ask the House to bear with me for

[Mr. Humphrey.]

a moment while I place upon record a letter published in the Nelson Daily News under date of April 28, showing the situation of this class of settlers as applied to that particular district. This letter is sent from Brilliant, B.C., under date of April 25, 1924, and is as follows:

JOHN OLIVER, Esq.,
Premier of British Columbia,
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Sir:

Last Sunday night towards Monday morning, 21st of April a lot of buildings were burned in the Doukhobor colony at Brilliant, namely three schools and a small house of mine which was built on a rock about two years ago with beautiful architecture.

At the time of a fire I was in the province of Alberta and had been informed by Brilliant office immediately after which I have returned to British Columbia. The indication is that the fire took place intentionally therefore I decided, dear sir, to inform you more fully regarding this matter what is going on in colonies of the Christian Community of Universal Brotherhood.

The spirit of socialism had widely spread in Europe, and the American continent in general, which passes in to middle perpetual principal of barbarity, robbery, and attempt on others' property.

The Doukhobors came from Russia with good principles and absolutely peaceful life, but here in Canada under the influence of the different character of settlers and circumstances so to speak a "free life" a different opinions were formed in the Doukhobor Society result of which three parties came out.

The first party which is under my control carries a name of "The Christian Community of Universal Brotherhood Ltd.," duly incorporated and although with big physical labour yet the people of this corporation are getting their subsistence and are arranging more or less on good terms. This party is upkeeping the principle, religion and customs which the Doukhobors have had in Russia.

The second party, this is the people who left the Doukhobor Society and have accepted the homesteads in the province of Saskatchewan and Alberta and became British subjects. These people had commenced to use meat as food, drink whiskey, smoke and chew tobacco. Younger people have started to buy automobiles, frequently visiting pool rooms and acquired all the corruptive civilized principles. Now this party is absolutely ruining in Saskatchewan and Alberta, leaving their land and are going to proletariat. It is quite possible that they will be good socialists. These are the products of the American free spirit.

The third party, although very small in number that left the Doukhobors Society under the name "Nudes" are absolutely anarchists acknowledging no moral laws, desire to work nothing, hatefully looking on all the cultured progressive arrangements such as good agriculture, orchards, and general adaptability of agricultural improvements. Such party, is under suspicion are the ones who is setting fire amongst Doukhobor colonies in British Columbia. I have decided to bring to your notice and respectfully ask you to remove this party from the nearby Community colony settlements, otherwise these people are threatening to start burning up the good arrangement as possessed by the Christian Community of Universal Brotherhood such as jam factory, a factory which makes wooden pipes, sawmills, warehouses, and other buildings. If the government will not take quick action to remove these people to some other province then some night it may happen that they would set a fire for hundred thousands of cultured arrangements. These people under the name of "Nudes" have worked out a principle