

small hold. I might say that a similar condition prevailed in the old days, when our forefathers came over, and it is not reasonable to reproach these people with a lack of cleanliness which, under the circumstances, was unavoidable. I have visited their houses, and can give personal evidence of their proper habits. If any hon. gentleman is coming west this coming summer, let him drive some sixty miles from Edmonton and visit the houses of these Galicians, who have been in the country three years, and he will see that the common opinion circulated regarding them is a very erroneous one. Some of these settlers, who had not \$100 when they arrived here, have built substantial log houses and have well cultivated farms, with five or six cows, a pair of oxen, and lovely gardens, blooming with not only plants and flowers common to the country, but also brought from Austria with them. He will also notice that the manure is removed from their stables every day, and will find more cleanliness on their premises than he will around many Ontario farms. Last year I had a letter from a gentleman named Ross, who had farmed many years in Ontario, and afterwards conducted a large farm and private bank in Minnesota who had paid a visit to the Galicians west of Edmonton. I regret that I have not that letter with me, but in it he said that within five years these people would not only be among the most prosperous farmers of the west, but be lending money, as the Mennonites in southern Manitoba are now doing. This testimony, coming from a man of his experience, is worth any amount of newspaper gossip, founded on prejudice or idle rumours.

A great deal has been said by the hon. gentleman who has just sat down, and by other speakers on other occasions, regarding these Doukhobors. These people have been misrepresented, probably, even more than the Galicians. The first party of Doukhobors with which I came in contact numbered 2,100. They arrived in January, 1899 and had been painted to me in such colours that I was afraid we were going, particularly at that season, to have terrible difficulty with them. I put 600 in the immigration hall at Winnipeg, 300 in a building 300 or 400 yards off, and a little over 1,000 in the immigration hall at East Selkirk. I engaged a number of Galicians, who spoke English, to act as interpreters. About one half the words of the Galician language are the same as the Doukhobor tongue, so that these Galicians were rather imperfect interpreters, but, I employed them to look after these Doukhobors. These people, however, soon came to me, and said they did not want interpreters, and if told what to do, could look after themselves. I, therefore, allowed the Doukhobors to look after the buildings, see that the fires were kept up—it was intensely cold—and they kept the buildings and did their business in such

a way that few business men could have kept them better. I discharged the interpreters except the official one, and allowed those people to manage for themselves, and I concluded from the way they did manage things, that they would make very good settlers on the prairie.

It is charged that they have interfered with the labour market. Well, Mr. Speaker, that is just the reverse of what they will do. If they believe in anything, it is the great brotherhood of man. They believe in every man getting decent wages for a day's work. Let me give an instance of this. On the Canadian Northern road, in 1899, there were about forty Canadians working on a piece of grading from Swan river east, some twenty-six miles. It was very swampy and these people were up to their knees in mud and water. A party of Doukhobors was sent up, and after a while their leader wrote me that his people could not make any money at the wages, and were going to quit. I advised him to go to the proprietors and explain the matter. They followed my advice. They went up and asked 20 cents a yard instead of the 13½ cents or 14 cents which they were getting. They did not get the 20 cents, but they got a raise to 17 cents. Then they went to the forty Canadians and told them that they had got a raise of 3 cents a yard, so that, instead of decreasing the wages they actually gave the forty Canadians the benefit of their efforts to raise the pay. The same thing has invariably prevailed elsewhere. I defy the hon. gentleman to show me one case in which the Doukhobors have cut down wages, except during the first two or three months when they were in Winnipeg, and sawed wood at a lower price than they should. But, that was done in ignorance. They did not know the value of money, and could not tell 25 cents from a dollar. Why, the president of the Manitoba and North-western road, Mr. W. R. Baker, told me, that the first time these Doukhobors worked on that road, when they got their first \$15 in new one dollar bills, so ignorant were they that they came with the money and wanted to know how much they should give back to the landlord—what percentage was his and what theirs. They could not believe that all that money belonged to themselves. They are honest labourers, and let me tell you what was done in some cases. They were imposed upon by railway foremen. Take the division west of Moosejaw, known as the western division, of which Mr. Milestone was superintendent. He sent a gang of Doukhobors to work on that road, but they did not give satisfaction, and I could not understand why. I found out, however, the reason. You know, Sir, that these people will not eat meat if they can avoid it, and the cook in the camp used to put meat in their soup, which was made of vegetables, and after they had eaten their soup, he would take out the piece of