

one to immigrate here unless they are assured that these immigrants will not be a charge to the state or that they will not deprive our people of their right to existence by replacing them or reducing the salaries of our workers. In the course of last summer, while on a trip to the west, I was somewhat astonished to read in local newspapers that a congress was being held in Winnipeg with the object of fixing the number of harvesters that the various western provinces could absorb during the crop season, in view of the scheme planned to import miners from Europe.

With the knowledge that modern machinery, to-day, forcibly creates unemployment, it seems to me that we should be able to pick up here all the hand labour which we need, on condition that the workers be reasonably remunerated, humanely treated and that the rates of transportation do not deprive them of most of their savings; unfortunately these conditions seem to be entirely lacking. If we are allowed to draw a conclusion from the importation of 8,500 miners who came to us during the harvest season to work on the land, it cannot be very flattering to us since a very small number settled here and the remainder returned home more or less satisfied, finding no attraction here—another proof that we cannot make a farmer out of everybody.

An important fact not to be lost sight of, is that last year 5,000,000 bushels of wheat remained in the elevators, having found no favourable market, and owing to this fact, the price of wheat was considerably depressed. When I find that wheat growers' associations want to prevent the presidents of railways, Mr. Beatty and Sir Henry Thornton, from publishing bulletins on crop outlooks, pleading that truth hurts their interests, I think I have a right to conclude that although our western plains are able to absorb many more farmers, we should regulate their development, bearing in mind the markets actually at our disposal and capable of absorbing our production. And what is true for agriculture is also true for all industries.

Immigration must not be a question of sympathy but one of business. What is the use of transferring hardships from one locality to another or else increase it? Each country should have sufficient patriotism and self sacrifice to solve their own problem of unemployment and not seek to add exile to their unhappiness. If we wish to attract farm settlers to this country we must revert to the liberal policy in force between 1896 and 1910, under the direction of the Hon. Clifford Sifton, when the west made extraordinary

strides. It is an error to set aside the continental immigration or to neglect, in a continental country like ours, people that are trained to farm life, thrifty, hardy and steady, living in a climate similar to that of Canada.

Is it not a fact that years ago no Canadian settler wanted that swampy land to the east of Winnipeg and back of the Rivière Rouge, yet, to-day, it is the most fertile land of Manitoba, it was drained by a settlement of Galicians hailing from the Carpathian mountains, without any government assistance, they but asked the privilege of working in peace? To-day they are good British Canadian citizens, happy, contented and respected.

Was it not so for the western part of lake Winnipegosis where continental people, without any aid, made a success of that district? Such was also the case with a settlement of Hungarians who, with no assistance, took up land back of lake Manitoba, to the east of Neepawa, and made a success of life. Furthermore, we find continental immigrants settling the arid lands along the Rosthern railway, from Regina to Prince Rupert, digging wells, irrigating the land and making of this district one of the most productive in the west.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

PRIVATE BILLS

SECOND READING

Bill No. 74, respecting The Premier Guarantee and Accident Insurance Company of Canada.—Mr. Lawson.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 27, to incorporate Barclays Bank (Canada).—Mr. Jacobs.

Bill No. 30, respecting the Protective Association of Canada.—Mr. Boivin.

BANK PENSION FUNDS

The house in committee on Bill No. 28, respecting the Pension Fund Society of the Bank of Montreal, the Molsons Bank Pension Fund, and the Merchants' Bank of Canada Pension Fund—Mr. Guérin—Mr. Johnston in the chair.

Sections 1, 2 and 3 agreed to.

On section 4—Merchants' Bank pension fund repealed.

Mr. BENNETT: What is the provision with respect to the time the act shall come into force?