

called, has taught us to bring under cultivation land that we had concluded was semi-arid, and with these facts before us it ill becomes any loyal citizen in this country to stand up and with one sweeping phrase damn the whole population. In that census of Alberta, taken last June, we find that there is a population in the province of 185,412 souls.

Mr. ARMAND LAVERGNE. And does my hon. friend know that this year more foreign immigrants will come in than the whole population of Alberta?

Mr. WILBERT MCINTYRE. I am not going to prophecy, I am talking facts. The hon. gentleman told us that he was giving us some figures; well, I am giving you some figures that are facts. I say that we have 111,138 British born people in the province of Alberta, out of a total of 185,000, disregarding the other immigrants. Take also into consideration the fact that there are an additional 43,000 immigrants coming in from the United States, and I have accounted for 154,000. Yet they tell us that the foreign invasion is upsetting us, they tell us that we must look out, or four-fifths of the population will be foreigners. I can see no justification for such fears. Now you must take out of the 300,000 left, those who come in from France and Belgium, these must be reserved as sacred, these are the ideal citizens, according to the hon. member who moved this motion (Mr. Armand Lavergne). There are some 5,000 coming from Norway and Sweden who go to make up the so-called northern European immigration, which every hon. gentleman on both sides of this House will admit are most desirable immigrants. People from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, France, Belgium, Switzerland, are known to be most admirable settlers, whose civilization is as high as our own. I exclude those, and I have a very small residuum of foreign population.

Now with regard to the increase in population. Take the increase of population between 1901 and 1906 in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, which are the three provinces which we are told will be four-fifths foreign born. The increase between these two years, in each of which the census was taken, I find to be 389,351; of this increase 239,044 were British born, which is sixty-two per cent of the increase in those three provinces. That is the way the foreign population is coming in. The remaining foreign born portion showed an increase of thirty-eight per cent, of which the United States furnished eighteen per cent. Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, France and Germany contributed seven and two-fifths per cent, leaving of so-called undesirable immigrants, so defined time and again by the hon. member for Labelle and the hon. member for Montmagny, twelve and a half per cent. Do you think that with that percentage of good loyal Canadians

there is any danger from the so-called foreign population? Even if they were not assimilable, even if they were hard to assimilate, do you think there is any danger of a foreign invasion when there is only twelve and a half per cent of these people out of the whole population?

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that the fact that these people come from inferior surroundings, from a civilization perhaps inferior to ours, is no argument that they will not appreciate their new surroundings and will not form sentimental ties for this country even stronger than we appreciate ourselves? I will cite one little circumstance that came to my own knowledge to illustrate what I mean. A certain Galician came to my office one day, and in speaking of the country of his adoption and comparing it with the country of his birth, he said, Do you know that my little boy twelve years of age can take up an English newspaper and read it so that we can all understand it in our own language? You may think that is a mere passing sentiment, you may think it does not amount to much. But when I heard him say: My little boy of twelve years of age can read these books that have always been closed to me, he can read all the English papers—he was almost overwhelmed, and tears of gratitude stood in this man's eyes. It is these little sentimental things that go to make up a strong national spirit; it is these things that tie the so-called foreigner to the country. Imagine the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) telling us that this House would be dominated by a foreign population. Does not the hon. gentleman know that every man who comes into Canada and proves upon a homestead must take the oath of allegiance! and I claim that no man who has taken the oath of allegiance should be termed a foreigner. What difference does it make whether the accent which he used comes from the highlands of Scotland, or of sunny France or from Galicia. If he is a good citizen, if he be an honest and industrious man, contributing to the wealth of this country, he should have the sentimental protection of not being called a foreigner.

Now we have heard something said regarding the cost of immigration, and I wish to cite a few figures showing the percentage of the cost of immigration at various periods. I have here a statement showing the total expenditure of immigration and its various branches, and I have worked out the per capita cost of each immigrant. There was a statement made in this House that this government was paying \$60 per head for its immigrants. What are the facts? In the year 1901-2 we paid \$7.13; in the year 1902-3 we paid \$5; in 1903-4 we paid \$5.71; in 1904-5, \$6.65; in 1905-6, \$4.45.

This is the per capita cost of the immigrants for these years. Now, let us take up this national question. The great cry that seemed to come up from my hon. friend