

ing that we are receiving the volume of immigration which is coming to us at present, and it is no doubt of better quality than the immigration of previous years, but the stream of national life in Canada is yet subject to very considerable pollution by reason of much of the immigration which comes from the south of Europe. It is to be observed in the last report of the Department of Justice upon the population of penitentiaries in Canada that the inmates of those institutions have increased within the last year no less than within a fraction of 15 per cent. To hon. gentlemen who are familiar with the enforcement of criminal law throughout our western country, it is unquestionable that our criminal statistics are growing to an alarming degree, largely owing to the fact that the government is not making that careful selection of immigrants which the interest of the country demands. There is not a municipality, I venture to say, west of the Great Lakes that has not been called upon to very substantially increase its expenditures for policing the community within its boundaries, and the dockets of the criminal courts are largely surcharged as time goes on by the many crimes committed by that element of the population to which I have referred. I am, however, gratified to find that we are receiving a very highly desirable class of immigrants from the great country to the south of us. My hon. friend from Middlesex made reference to the splendid character of the immigrants who come to us from the United States. I can very heartily concur in that statement. It is to be observed also, from the statistics furnished by the government, that the Americans who are coming into Canada are giving very much closer attention to the settlement of the lands than any other nationality within our boundaries. I find that 21 per cent. of the English immigrants have taken homesteads, 22 per cent of the Scotch, 24 per cent of the Irish, 30 per cent of the continental Europeans, and no less than 43 per cent of the Americans. I can say of my own knowledge that this latter percentage can be very considerably increased by reason of this fact, that a great number of Americans purchased their lands outright, and, therefore, are

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED.

not entered in the statistics as being homesteaders. It is safe to say that 75 per cent of the American immigrants are settlers upon our western lands. Some degree of apprehension has been expressed from time to time as to the ability of a country with such a small population as Canada to digest an immigration of that character, such immigrants being predisposed towards the very liberal institutions which they have left on the other side of the line. I say without hesitation that those Americans who have come within our boundaries have shown a disposition to assimilate themselves with our institutions to an extent greater than those of any other nationality, and I am justified in saying that in the course of a very few years they will rank equal with our own people in loyalty to our Canadian institutions. There is one phase of this question which, I submit, has not received that attention which it merits at the hands of the government, namely the ethnology, so to speak, of the question of immigration. During the late sittings of the British Association at Winnipeg this question was discussed from a scientific standpoint. Attention was directed to the fact that we legislate in Canada with a great degree of anxiety upon almost all subjects relating to the land, soil, climate, wheat, cattle, food, and so on, but without paying much attention to the ethnology of the races that come within our borders. This is particularly noticeable upon the question of naturalization. Our naturalization laws are certainly very defective in this respect. They are less progressive and insure to Canada very much less security than the naturalization laws of the United States. When we extend British citizenship to immigrants who have lived within the boundaries of our country during three years, we extend to them the franchise, we give to them all the rights and privileges of British subjects, and of all the institutions within our land. I think it is one of the most humiliating spectacles which can present itself to the mind of any intelligent man, particularly during elections in that western country, when great public questions are to be dealt with, when the intelligence and the education of our people are brought into demand, to find thou-