

or a total of 180, assisted on these conditions; in 1898 there were 29 males and 68 females, or a total of 97; and in 1899 there were 12 males and 24 females, or a total of 36. That shows how much success has attended that kind of assisted passages; but I think the people of Western Australia were right, if they were going to assist people to go to their country, in insisting that they should be first-class people, and that they should have some capital, and not be liable to become paupers on their hands, to be supported at the public expense.

Now, the kind of immigrants we have been receiving in Canada are a very different class from those I have just been talking about. We have allowed to land on our shores people who were paupers, and who were not able to pass the ordinary regulations laid down by the department. The *Montreal Herald*, which is a very strong supporter of the present government, in its issue of the 13th of August, 1900; makes this allusion to some immigrants who were brought into the country during last summer:

More Roumanians.

They arrived here on Saturday afternoon, and were allowed to land on an agreement with the Baron de Hirsch Institute. After an exchange of telegrams between Montreal and Ottawa yesterday and to-day, an order was issued by Mr. Frank Pedley, superintendent of immigration, this morning and sent to Mr. Hoolahan, the agent here, permitting of the landing of the Roumanian immigrants, who came over on the *Elder-Dempster* steamship *Lake Megantic* and who are detained at Montreal. The permission was conditional upon the steamship company or the Baron de Hirsch Society guaranteeing that the new-comers will not become a charge upon the Canadian people.

I do not think that even with that guarantee these people should have been allowed to land. They have been landing in large numbers and no one society is able to take care of so many, and we only ought to allow people to land who are fit to take care of themselves and will not become a burden as paupers on this country—neither they nor their children. I think, Mr. Speaker, that we ought to take care of our own people, but I do not think that we should open our ports to the whole world and allow this country to be overrun with paupers. I am decidedly opposed to anything of that kind.

The *Lake Megantic* arrived in port on Saturday with 183 Roumanian Jews on board, and the immigration officials at Quebec refused to allow 126 of them to land, for the same reason as they refused a number of the immigrants brought over by the steamships *Lake Champlain* and *Louisiana*. They did not possess the amount of money required of their class, coming into Canada should have.

On the next day, the *Montreal Star* pointed out that there were over 300 families settled in Montreal of the same class of people, and each family is composed of from five to six members. These people have greatly

disturbed the labour market, and many of them have undermined our own people who had employment and have secured their jobs, so that our own people have been forced out of their positions and had to make the best shift they could. This is one of the things the government should stop at all hazards. On no account should we allow these paupers to land on our shores and displace our own people.

We have another illustration of the mistaken policy of this government. Not long ago an hon. member in this House—the hon. member for Selkirk—told us that 50 per cent of the sick in the two hospitals of Winnipeg had not been in this country three years, and many of them had not been here one year, and he urged that as a strong reason why this government should give additional assistance to these two hospitals.

Let me now refer for a moment to the Doukhobors, and I think, although I see the Minister of the Interior smiling, that he would feel much more comfortable if these people were not in this country at all. We remember that at the time the Mormons wanted to come and settle in this country and bring their institutions with them, but Sir John Macdonald said, no, we will not have polygamy in Canada. Then they wanted to come, and each Mormon bring only the wives he then had and leave the others behind, but Sir John again said no. He said: If you come into this country and are guilty of polygamy, you will be punished just the same as anybody else. You must abide by our laws or stay at home. It is very much to be regretted that a similar stand was not taken by this government with regard to the Doukhobors. The first unfortunate concession made to them was that they should be exempt from military service and not be compelled to defend this country under any circumstances. That was a great mistake. I do not see why any persons settling in our country should be allowed privileges which are not granted our own people. If there are any privileges to be given to anybody, our own people should be preferred. Let me quote from the press reports of what these Doukhobors have been doing:

They have issued an appeal to the nations of the world asking that they may be given a refuge from Canadian tyranny!

They object to our land laws, to our marriage laws, and to our registration laws.

And because they cannot have their own way, they are now looking for some other country where their religious liberty will not be oppressed.

These people, Mr. Speaker, must be a pretty bad lot indeed to declaim about the tyranny of Canadian laws, when everybody knows that Canada is as free from tyranny as any country in the world, notwithstanding the bad government we are at present afflicted with.