

with the opinion that if we had free trade and if the natural markets to the south were upon to us, we would be enabled, which we are not now, to reap the fruits of all these natural advantages. I have no doubt that they concluded that if our policy were changed and our labouring classes relieved of the burdens which now weigh them down, this country would be a much more desirable place for settlement. They must have observed that the purchasing power of a dollar in this country is much lower than it is in England, and that unless that advantage was counterbalanced by a free market our country would not experience the development we have hitherto been looking for in vain. While we have a grand climate, fertile soil, and vast stretches of excellent land, on the other hand we have opposing influences which more than counterbalance these advantages and retard immigration; and if they have expressed such an opinion in their report, we are entitled to know it. If they have declared that the National Policy was not in the interests of immigration, we ought to know it. If they have told the Government that the burden of taxation is such that it has prevented many settling here who would otherwise have come, we are entitled to know it. It would surprise me that the Government should venture to give instructions to their delegates that they must avoid everything of a political character, because that certainly is the side of the shield which should be shown to the people of the old country. We cannot expect to have our lands settled for many years to come, even if we have a good climate and cheap land, unless the other conditions of life are of such a character as to make those cheap lands profitable to settlers. It is not within the right of the Government to withhold any report placed in their hands, even if it should express an opinion contrary to theirs. On the contrary, it is their duty to place that report before the House and the country so that we can read and deliberate upon the convictions therein expressed. If they have noticed that Prince Edward Island is suffering from the action of the National Policy, which every intelligent representative in this country knows, if they have told us that the people there are paying \$120,000 every year to get their potatoes into the United States, which they might save were it not for the National Policy, we have a right to know. If they have told us that the iron and coal deposits of the eastern provinces could be developed to a much greater extent, if we had free trade with the United States, we have a right to know it. If they have told us that if the lumber products of these provinces were allowed free access to the United States, and employment would be furnished the people coming from the old country, we have a right to be informed of it. It is an insult to this Parliament and the country to refuse to place before us the reports of these men who were paid by the people to come here and report; and I beg leave to remind the Ministers and their supporters, who refuse to grant the request of the hon. member for South Huron, that their refusal will not be condoned by the people. I beg leave to remind them that the people will insist on their no longer standing in the way of our obtaining the information these people came here to give, and for which we are paying out of the hard earnings of the people. And therefore, I say, it is the duty of the Government to place

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron).

these reports on the Table, even should they contain opinions at variance with those of the Government.

Mr. MULOCK. I think it is unfortunate that on a motion of this kind, neither the Minister of Agriculture nor the First Minister is in his place. I find that in the debate which took place a few evenings ago, the Minister of Agriculture admitted the existence of this report. We have it to-day from the Minister of Justice that the report has not been read by any Minister of the Crown, but was forwarded to England unread. I leave it to you, Mr. Speaker, and I leave it to the members of this House, whether it is fair of the Government to ask Parliament to vote \$30,000 of the people's money, ostensibly to promote immigration, and then, after they have got the report from their own chosen delegates, not to think it worth while to read it and to refuse to give it to the people of Canada. What was the object in asking these gentlemen to come out here and inspect the country if the world is not to be enlightened by their examination of the resources of this country? Last year the Government told the country they intended to inaugurate a vigorous immigration policy, and they took from Parliament a large sum, nearly \$300,000, which they proceeded to spend by inviting delegates from various parts of the Empire to come to Canada and examine its resources and advise the outside world as to the attractions which Canada provides. I see men before me in this House who on some occasions profess a deep interest in the welfare of Canada. I see before me gentlemen who have professed themselves anxious to promote immigration. I see the hon. member for Northumberland, who sometimes waxes warm in favour of increasing the population of Canada by immigration; but when there is something before him which he cannot face, he has to think of something else. I see the hon. Minister of Militia, who sometimes professes a deep concern in the welfare of Canada and who pays great attention to the debates; but when a question like this comes up which he cannot answer, we find him deeply embarrassed by other matters and lacking time to give attention to the matter before the House. The hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) sometimes gives great attention to the business of the House, and the other evening, when Parliament was giving attention to the subject of immigration, supposing now that we were talking of a former session, when we were speaking of the funds which have been expended to bring delegates out to Canada, and what those delegates had said in reference to the resources of Canada, the hon. gentleman said, in the high function of chairman of the committee which he then occupied: I rule out any discussion in regard to the report of the delegates to the Maritime Provinces.

Mr. SPROULE. I would like to correct the hon. gentleman. Whether he was present or not, I do not know, but I may state that I made no such ruling.

Mr. MULOCK. I am sure the House will be glad to know that the hon. member feels so interested in this question, that there is one member on that side who is interested in it; but I should like to ask, where is the Minister of Agriculture? When a question of this kind is