

people entering Canada, and if he intended to do it. I also stated that I was decidedly opposed to such a course if the question of colour was the reason for such a tax.

Mr. OLIVER. In regard to most of the questions of my hon. friend, I am not able to give an answer, because the matters referred to are not under my control or jurisdiction, nor am I in any way responsible for them. In regard to whether there is any sentiment in Canada in favour of placing a \$500 head tax upon negroes coming into the country, so far as my information goes there is a very strong sentiment on the part of a great many people in this country against the admission of negroes; but as to the intention of the government, I can only refer my hon. friend to the remarks I made last night. In the administration of the Immigration Department we have certain restrictive and exclusive provisions, and if his friends come under any of these provisions they cannot come into Canada, while if they do not come under any of these provisions, they can come into Canada.

Mr. DANIEL. In the course of his remarks last night, the hon. Minister of the Interior said:

I wish to have the matter thoroughly understood—in the administration of the exclusion provisions of the law, there is taken into account the question of whether the proposed immigrant is ordinarily considered desirable or ordinarily considered undesirable. The immigrant ordinarily considered desirable is the man who wishes to go on the land, and if he does not want to go on the land the presumption towards him is not so favourable.

I would like to call the minister's attention to the fact that these 165 negroes from Oklahoma who were stopped at the boundary were immigrants who intended to go on the land and settle as a farming community; so that, according to the minister's own statement, they belong to the desirable class. Under these circumstances it would seem plain to the ordinary observer that they were excluded because they were not of the right colour. If that was not the case, I think it is due to the House and the country that the minister give the reasons why they were excluded.

Mr. OLIVER. I do not know where my hon. friend got his information, because my information is that they were not stopped at the boundary, and that they were not excluded.

Mr. DANIEL. That statement was made in the despatch which was read last night by my hon. friend from North Essex.

Mr. OLIVER. If it was in the despatch, so far as my information goes, it was not correct, because I have no information that

the people were stopped at the boundary, or that they were excluded. My information is that some members of the party were excluded, but the larger number of them, having complied with the conditions laid down in the Immigration Law and in the regulations, were admitted.

Mr. DANIEL. Will the minister give us what information he has?

Mr. OLIVER. I have given the House all the information I have on the subject. I may say that I was not keeping myself particularly in touch with this special band of immigrants. There are many thousands of immigrants coming into the country just now, and I did not feel that it was incumbent upon me to follow the movements of this particular party. I have always understood that any one who complied with the regulations would be admitted, and any one who did not comply with the regulations would be excluded. That was all the information I had on the matter, and it is quite incidental that I am able to give the House the information that I have received.

Mr. DANIEL. On the 2nd of March I brought up a similar case, and the minister, in his reply to me at that time, undertook to examine into the occurrence and give the information later. It was a case where a party of negroes from the United States who wanted to go to western Canada, were stopped at the boundary, although they were of the desirable class, people who wanted to go on the land. So far the minister has not given me any information as to why they were turned back.

Mr. OLIVER. I did make inquiry and received a report, which I have not placed before the House, but which I will take an early opportunity of doing. The report which I have received is practically that the story was made out of whole cloth. It is true, an individual, a coloured man, came to the boundary, and he was excluded for reasons that would have excluded any other man, whether coloured or not. That was the fact on which the story in the newspapers was based.

Mr. FISHER. The hon. member for North Essex asked the Minister of the Interior a question which applies to my department. As I understood it, he asked whether an individual had passed the Civil Service examination for the census, and had been refused because he was coloured. There is absolutely no foundation for any such statement. He also asked whether somebody had been transferred from the Marine and Fisheries Department to the Experimental Farm. A gentleman with African blood in him was sent by the Civil Service Commission to the Department of Marine and Fisheries. He was not found