

in 1896 when one of the faithful allies and life-long friend of my hon. friend the Postmaster General came into my county and pointed out to my electors that the traitor, Sir Charles Tupper, through his Minister of Militia, Mr. Desjardins, was purchasing rifles in order to force the young men of my county to leave their mothers, sisters and sweethearts to go and fight in Venezuela. There was a very distinct infraction of the rule then. I also recollect that in the last general election a colleague of my hon. friend the Postmaster General, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, took the trouble to go down into my county and there denounce me, because forsooth, I had undertaken the defence—I believe the legitimate defence—of Lord Dundonald and denounced me as a man who wanted to substitute the military rule of an English general for the liberal, popular and free government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. We are glad that my hon. friend has now found out the error of his ways as many of those who sit with him on that side of the House have. But, to return to the French immigration question, I am bound to say—and I hope I shall not be taxed with appealing in any sense to race or religious prejudice that it is a very significant thing, in reverse of what the Postmaster General has said, that when they made that contract with the North Atlantic Trading Company, the government omitted from its provisions France, Belgium and the French cantons of Switzerland. I do not say there was any sinister design in that, but why was it done? Neither the Minister of the Interior or the Postmaster General have given even a semblance of a pretext for the omission. Every one admits there are desirable emigrants to be found in these countries which have been placed under the ban, but the Postmaster General will not deny that we have done nothing towards promoting emigration from them. There was a point, and one of great gravity, raised by the hon. member for Montmagny which was not touched upon by any ministerialist who has spoken. Is it true, as the hon. gentleman (Mr. A. Lavergne) alleged, that a pamphlet, printed at great expense by the government of Quebec to be circulated among the Belgians, describing the advantages of settlement in that province, was locked up in a cellar by the Canadian commissioner at the Liège exhibition and not allowed to be circulated?

Mr. BOURASSA. There was more than that. There was a representative of the government of Quebec at that exhibition and he was forbidden to remain in the Canadian pavilion to do anything in the way of inducing Belgian emigrants to come to Quebec.

Mr. MONK. Surely we are entitled to some explanation of that state of affairs.

Mr. MONK.

The province of Quebec spent about \$25,000 to secure proper representation at that exhibition, and the Quebec government expended \$12,000 on the publication of a very excellent pamphlet which I have read from cover to cover, describing to the Belgians the advantages of their settling in the province of Quebec. What possible reason could the Dominion government, through its representative at that exhibition, have had for this unwarranted act in preventing the circulation of this book. Every one knows that the Belgians are excellent settlers. They excel in gardening and dairying; those who have come to Quebec have been the most successful settlers we have had from any foreign country; what reason was there for this extraordinary act on the part of the Canadian government?

Let us look at the present situation in France, and let us ask what the Canadian government has done to induce French settlers to come to Canada. In France, at present, there are laws which are displeasing to a very important section of the population, and a section from which we could draw the most excellent immigrants. We could not induce this class of people to come here through the bonusing system; you will not get them to come at \$4 or \$5 a head, but, you will get them to come here by making known to them—not in a surreptitious way, not by men who are obliged to hide themselves, whose names we are not permitted to know, whose doings and expenditure we are not allowed to inquire into—you will get these people to come here by openly and frankly showing them the advantages of this country, and the fact that in Canada as in all British countries they can find a safe refuge where they can practise their religion, whatever it may be, and educate their children as they see fit. Nothing has been done by the government to induce such people to settle in Canada. We are told that we have emigration agents in France. Well, I believe we have a gentleman who is a Frenchman by birth, and who does something there, though what he does I do not know. Otherwise we have nothing that I am aware of to promote emigration from France, whereas some years ago we spent over \$50,000 in eastern Europe to bring out Doukhobors who certainly have not been a success.

My hon. friend (Mr. Lemieux) quoted at great length from Mr. Siegfried's book on Canada, and I noticed with some surprise that his quotations were received with great applause by gentlemen on the other side. What an authority for the Postmaster General to quote. No one will deny the literary merit and wealth of statistics to be found in Mr. Siegfried's book, but what is the doctrine that this man propounds, and that the Postmaster General seems to approve of. As I understand it, Mr. Siegfried lays down in his book the proposition that the people of the province of Quebec, under