

our country achieve the greatness which we believe is its destiny. That at any rate has been the belief of the public men of Canada ever since its settlement, and my hon. friend has the honour of holding an absolutely unique position in this regard. The question then is how shall we best achieve the result to which my hon. friend is so strongly opposed, that is to say, the development of these great natural resources which are at our command for the benefit of Canada and Canadians. The idea that Canada should stand still, that its resources should not be developed, is one which I think no one except my hon. friend will advocate for an instant in this country or in his public capacity. But how is that increase of population best to be brought about? There have been many and various attempts and policies to accomplish this. As circumstances in this country have changed, so has our immigration policy. And as the conditions of the countries from which we draw immigration change, so must we change our policy. Therefore, because we have a certain policy to-day and had a different one yesterday, it does not follow that either is better or worse than the other. What would rather follow is that each best suited the peculiar circumstances and conditions of the day, and that as circumstances and conditions change so must our policy.

My hon. friend has spoken of bonuses to immigrants or to steamship companies on account of immigrants. If he has moved his resolution under the belief that bonuses are paid to immigrants or steamship companies, he is under a wrong impression. Bonuses are not paid to immigrants or to steamship companies on account of immigrants. They are paid for the purpose of advertising the advantages of Canada in those countries from which it is considered desirable to secure immigrants. The idea is that Canada is a country of such natural advantages that if these advantages are properly and fully brought before the people of those countries from which immigration will likely come, those people will come to Canada and take advantage of those opportunities. It is not now, although it was, I believe at one time, a part of the policy of the government of Canada to bonus immigrants who come to Canada or to bonus steamship companies for the bringing of immigrants to this country, nor has it been the policy at any time since this government attained power. The system of paying immigrants to come to Canada and of giving bonuses to steamship companies to bring them was not considered by this government to be a sound policy and was not continued.

Mr. URIAH WILSON. Did not the Doukhobors get the bonus of \$5 a head?

Mr. OLIVER. I do not think so.

Mr. URIAH WILSON. Yes, the money was paid to them direct.

Mr. OLIVER. The Doukhobors were not brought in as a part of the general immigration policy. I am not going to argue whether my hon. friend is correct or not; I am under the impression he is not, but admitting for the moment that he is, it only brings out the fact which I have stated that the policy of immigration must vary from time to time according to conditions which have to be met.

We believe that what is necessary is to bring the desirability of the conditions in Canada to the attention of the people best fitted to avail themselves of these conditions by coming to Canada. We believe that by doing that we have gone as far as it is the duty and the business of the government to go, and as far as the government can safely go. That is what has been done in past years, and that is what has produced the results that have been achieved. The bonus that is paid is paid to booking agents, the people whose business in life is to sell tickets of transportation without regard to the point to which the transportation carries. In Europe, including the British isles, the calling of a booking agent stands by itself; a man who is entitled to sell tickets of transportation receives a license from the government of the country in which he lives and is under certain restrictions and surveillance of the government of that country which assumes a certain responsibility for the business he carries on and looks after him in its operation. In some countries the booking agent is under less strict surveillance than in others. In Great Britain there is very little restriction; he pays his license and that is pretty well all there is to it, but in some European countries he is responsible for the representations he makes to the immigrant and he is liable to serious penalties for infractions of the regulations which surround him.

The principle upon which the bonuses are paid to agents is that the business of these agents is the sale of tickets; they get from the various railway and steamship companies from whom they hold agencies a commission on each ticket. There are thousands of these booking agents in the British isles and in the large continental countries. They are necessarily in touch with the travelling public and with the emigrating public. A man who is going to move from the country in which he lives to another country naturally goes to one of these licensed booking agents to buy his ticket, and it goes without saying that in some degree the booking agent has an interest in selling a man a ticket. The ticket that will carry with it the largest commission to the booking agent is the one the booking agent would most desire to sell and by giving a bonus to the booking agent on tickets sold to Canada it becomes a matter of interest to the booking agent to sell that man a