

*By Mr. Davin :*

Q. What was done about the Galicians at Yorkton? Early in the Session I called the attention of the Minister of the Interior to the well-defined reports that came from there as to their destitute condition?

A. We sent out Mr. McCreary, the Commissioner of Immigration, to look into the matter and report. He said that the reports which came in as to the condition of these people were much exaggerated. But there was some want and he immediately provided what was necessary for them.

Q. There is another question I want to ask you. I find in looking over your report—I am speaking from memory now—that out of about 10,000 immigrants who came from Europe more than 4,000 were Galicians. A little over a thousand were from Great Britain, and a very small number, indeed, from Ireland. I think it is in Mr. McCreary's report. I want to ask you how you account for such a number of Galicians coming in?

A. I explained that before you came in. It was through Professor Oleskow, who visited this country five or six years ago. Being greatly taken with what he saw in the North-west he went home and set about a movement for the immigration of those people from Austria to the North-west. He encouraged the better class of Galicians to emigrate, and later on the steamship agents took advantage of the fact that a great many of these people had gone to Canada and that some of them had apparently done fairly well, and induced a great many others who had not so much means to emigrate. These latter are the persons who were in this unfortunate condition at Yorkton and in other districts, and with which poorer class Professor Oleskow had nothing to do.

*By Mr. Hughes :*

Q. They are of the Teutonic race, are they not?

A. Yes, I believe so.

*By Mr. Davin :*

Q. What language do they speak?

A. I do not know what language they speak.

Q. They came from that part of Poland annexed to Austria?

A. Yes.

Q. I think they would speak Polish, would they not?

Mr. OLIVER:—They speak a dialect of Russian which is entirely distinct from German or Polish.

*By Mr. Sproule :*

Q. Is any effort made by the Department to keep out undesirable people?

A. We made an effort last year. We undertook to prevent persons who were not possessed of sufficient capital from coming in, but we found that the restriction was going to have a bad effect upon all immigration. From the reports made by the Austrian Consul at Montreal, we feared that the Austrian Government would not permit any further emigration, even of the better class of immigrants to leave that country, and so we withdrew the restriction.