

Mr. HOCKEN: As I understand it, Father Macdonell laid before the minister a plan by which he would have an organization represented at every point across the continent, and this organization would undertake to look after these people in co-operation with himself, and perhaps with the Department of the Interior. Does the minister not remember that plan being outlined to him by Father Macdonell?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I cannot say that I remember the plan the hon. member has referred to.

Mr. HOCKEN: I have it from a very close friend of Father Macdonell that that was done, and that the full details of his plan were submitted to the minister and approved by him. If I have been misinformed, I do not implicate the minister. But what surprised me was to hear that these Hebrideans, of all the immigrants that have ever come to Canada, have got into trouble of any kind, because I understood they were coming out with the most complete form of organization to take care of them that had ever been created in Canada for such a purpose.

Hon. CHARLES STEWART (Argenteuil, Acting Minister of Immigration): I have no knowledge of any definite scheme of the character the hon. member has described. True, Father Macdonell has made representations to organizations that were sympathetic for the purpose of securing money to loan, to establish his immigrants upon land, and they had made considerable progress. I cannot say that it is fulfilled, because outside of having a knowledge of it, I was not consulted about the matter particularly further than that I knew it was a general scheme of loaning money to establish newcomers on land by an organization interested in their welfare; but as to the scheme suggested by my hon. friend, I must confess I did not hear it, because when I became acquainted with Father Macdonell he was bringing people to Ontario and establishing them on farms, and they were being brought from the very locality in which those settlers who are now located at Red Deer were recruited. He seemed to be achieving considerable success, and was anxious to branch out in a larger way. I say frankly that, so far as my knowledge goes, Father Macdonell is one of the most successful colonizers we have working to-day in behalf of immigration and colonization. I shall deal briefly with the question raised by my hon. friend in reference to this party of Hebrideans who have come

to Canada under the auspices of the Rev. Father Macdonell and the Rev. Father MacIntyre. My hon. friend has laid considerable stress on the advertising generally which induced these people to come to Canada, and he declares that he cannot but hold the Department of Immigration responsible for that publicity. Very well; so far so good. I may say to my hon. friend and to the House too, that this is a matter of which I have been somewhat apprehensive myself. I do not think that we can possibly exercise too great care in controlling the advertising matter sent out, and I would not say for a moment that copies of the scheme of settlement of the Canada Colonization Association did not reach these settlers. I will say, however, and say it most emphatically, that never at any time did the Canada Colonization Association have anything to do with the movement of that party, apart from discussing with Father Macdonell the possibility of their assistance. And if the scheme of the Canada Colonization Association got to Scotland, if copies of it reached the hands of these settlers, it may have been carried to them by the party who came here last summer, who are now associated with these settlers, and who, I take it, would give first-hand information with regard to what they have seen in Canada. In order that the people might have an accurate knowledge of the conditions in Canada, I have been pleased on every occasion to place at the disposal of the representatives of settlers, in any locality on the continent or in Great Britain, who desired to look the situation over, every facility to study conditions in this country. Last year the Holland government sent a representative directly representing it in the person of Baron Sandberg, who travelled through Canada, being in charge of immigration work for the authorities in Holland. He gained information at first hand and from actual observation while in Canada. The government of Italy sent out Miss Garibaldi who travelled throughout Canada and carried back to her country personal knowledge of conditions here. The government of Switzerland was represented by Mr. Fitz Beck, who went from one part of this country to the other investigating, on his own behalf, conditions as they actually exist in Canada. And I know of no better way for the people who intend to come to this country to get information than from their own representatives who are engaged in the work of immigration and colonization and who come here to investigate matters for themselves.

The Immigration department cannot be responsible for all sorts of representations that