

do not suppose that even as big Canadians as the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) can afford to ignore history, can afford to ignore human nature, can afford to ignore the laws that have directed all nations in the past, whether in ancient or modern history; and if history repeats itself in respect to Canada, it may be that my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior cannot stop it all by himself. I think that the laws of nations, the laws of history and the laws of nature will be stronger than even my friend the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver).

I need not say much more on this subject; I simply claim that this is a subject which imposes itself on the attention of the people of Canada, and that before changing the basis of the policy as defined last year, before going back to the system which my hon. friend (Mr. Oliver) himself had denounced with the greatest vehemence while a member of this House, I claim that the least that the parliament and the people of Canada could have expected would have been to be informed of what the minister contemplated, and that we should have been consulted before such a step was taken. There is, therefore, no hesitation in my mind in deciding that the motion of my hon. friend from Montmagny (Mr. A. Lavergne) is a timely one and that it should be adopted by this House.

Mr. WILBERT McINTYRE (Strathcona). Mr. Speaker, I may be pardoned for speaking on this subject as I represent a constituency in a part of the country where this immigration policy operates to a very great extent. We have had some rather peculiar statistics placed before us to-day concerning the manner in which the immigration policy of the present government works out. I shall take a few moments of the time of the House then to discuss the conditions as they work out in the province of Alberta, as far as my practical experience goes. A great deal has been said that would lead one to believe that in the western provinces our population is made up mainly of the foreign elements with a small percentage of British and Canadian people to leaven the whole lump. I have to hand statistics which I do not think can be questioned, which are based on a census taken no longer since than June, 1906, which will show that nothing could be further from the truth than the statement made by an hon. member in this House, that in the western provinces four-fifths of the people are of foreign origin. Nothing could be further from the truth, and I resent with all the energy that is in me, any imputation that my constituents and my fellow citizens in the province of Alberta constitute the scum of the earth. The exact words used are: 'Canada is becoming the land of the scums of all other nations.' I resent any such statement; it has not one solitary foundation in fact. The much discussed Galician

Mr. BOURASSA.

who is so often referred to in this House has been a surprise to every man who is a citizen and takes an interest in public affairs in that country. He is a wonderful pioneer in the remote sections of the country, a man who begins with the smallest amount of capital and, working and earning as best he can to improve his surroundings, looks about him and sees his fellow countrymen improving, and whatever surplus money he acquires, he invests in improvements. The Galician becomes one of the very best, one of the most industrious citizens we have. On his arrival in Canada he does not appear to be the most desirable person to look at; his social laws are somewhat different from ours, his habits are different from ours, but when you can assimilate a class of people such as that and make them what they have become in the west, I say that they are a desirable class of citizens to have in the country, notwithstanding how they may appear on their arrival in this country.

We have heard something of American immigration, it has been, so to speak, discounted greatly in this House this afternoon. I want to tell the House one fact, if they have not already learned it, that the great proportion of the American immigration that comes to this country consists of repatriated Canadians. Do you mean to tell me that a man who has had to live in exile ten, twenty or thirty years, will not retain the tenderest loyalism towards the country from which he was exiled? Do you mean to tell me that he will not raise his children with the tenderest loyalism? Do you mean to tell me that these men are annexationists? I deny it, and declare that there could be nothing further from the truth. Take the American born citizen if you will. They are certainly not lawyers as stated by the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), but they are men who look into the political machinery of government in a peculiar way, they are men who have been taught from their birth that they have the full right of manhood. Therefore they take upon themselves the duties of citizenship, and the responsibilities of a citizen, and inquire into all the machinery of government, and what do they find? They find that they have left a democratic country at home to come to a more democratic country here; they find that our institutions are above their own, they find with us almost their ideal of responsible government in every particular, whether municipal or otherwise. I say it ill becomes any citizen of Canada with the capital that has come into the western country to rise in this House and, so to speak, damn the whole population that comes from the United States. It ill becomes us. I want to tell the House that the American farmer has done something for us in the west. He has taught us a great deal in the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. The American farmer, the dry farmer as he is sometimes