

the greatest danger to the future welfare of the state, and have protested, and are persisting in their protests; in fact, instead of subsiding with acquaintance, the opposition to these people seems to be increasing the more we see and know of them.

Now, Sir, I turn to a paper published, I believe, by the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver), a gentleman who supports the present Government in almost everything, but certainly not in regard to this class of immigration. On the contrary, he has been a consistent opponent of it, and, living, as he does, amongst those people, he knows whereof he speaks. On February 2nd I find in his paper a letter signed "Saxon," which reads as follows:—

Sir,—Northern Alberta certainly cannot be congratulated upon last year's immigration statistics. So large a proportion of Galicians and others who know nothing of the blessings of free institutions like ours, may one day constitute a serious menace to society. In the rebound from the state of semi-serfdom, in which they have always lived, liberty is apt to degenerate into license. If our population is to maintain its high standard of Anglo-Saxon civilization, with all that it implies in case of law and order, and capacity for self-government, it is absolutely necessary we should have a larger immigration from the United Kingdom.

On the 30th of March, I find also an editorial, under the head of "Immigration," which says:

The "Bulletin" has from time to time attempted to put the case of the citizen settler forward. Mr. Oliver has done the same in the House of Commons and elsewhere, and because he has done so the western newspaper organ of eastern monopoly, masquerading in the guise of Liberalism, attacks him in season and out of season, whether he supports or opposes the Government of which it has constituted itself the special champion.

The flooding of western Canada with people who are not used to the duties of citizenship is a serious question for the west and for all Canada. It is said that these strange peoples will assimilate with the English-speaking settlers, possibly, to some extent and at great length of time. But the work of their assimilation is that much of a drag and burden upon those with whom they are expected to assimilate. They have withstood assimilation in the country from which they come for many generations. What reason have we to expect their ready assimilation here, when settled in bodies large enough to insure all the machinery for the perpetuation of their whole system? This is a question concerning the very life of the nation—the very foundation of its life; and it is with an appreciation of its importance from every point of view that the "Bulletin" has hitherto dealt with it, and proposes to continue so to do.

Mr. CLARKE. To what does that refer?

Mr. PRIOR. It refers to the Galicians and the Doukhobors who are settled in the neighbourhood of Edmonton. Then, on the 8th of June, another article, headed "Immigration," appears. It is rather long, but I shall read it to the House, because I think it is very important. It is as follows:—

Mr. PRIOR.

Readers of the "Bulletin" will remember that from time to time this paper has felt it to be its duty to call attention to the undesirable as well as the desirable feature of the immigration policy of the Government, as viewed from the standpoint of this district and the settlers in it. For doing this it was fiercely attacked by alleged Government newspaper organs, and discredited as far as possible by Government officials' reports. But what the "Bulletin" saw clearly a year ago, because of its opportunities of close observation, which others at a distance did not see, and therefore did not believe, now that the immigration objected to has become large enough to attract their notice, is seen by them to be exactly as stated by the "Bulletin," much as they evidently dislike to acknowledge it. The fact that some two or three thousand Galicians had started from Hamburg to Canada, and that there were 50,000 more to follow, was of such importance that it could not be ignored.

It has, therefore, been dealt with by some of the party organs in a very gingerly way. The Toronto "Globe" and Montreal "Witness" may be particularly mentioned. The "Globe" says:

"The arrival of Galician and Doukhobor immigrants in considerable numbers in this country has given rise to some discussion as to whether we are in danger of experiencing some of the troubles from which our neighbours have suffered in the attempt to assimilate foreign populations. In some cases in the United States the objection has been made to the low standard of living among the incoming foreigners, the lack of that desire for improvements and comforts and refinement, which is one of the great civilizing forces. If, it is argued, a large number of people are content to live in squalor and ignorance, they tend to lower the standard of the whole population, especially by depressing the rates of wages in various occupations. If, it is objected, that some of the arrivals are not likely to make good citizens, but they form colonies, cling to their language and habits, and in some cases, return to their own country as soon as they have scraped a little money together. It is said in a recent work on city government in the United States that the naturalization of foreigners for immediate use as voters has been a source of great political corruption in the cities. * * * There is, however, no doubt of the wisdom of being careful in the selection of immigrants, and of taking every means of assimilating them with the rest of the population, and making them good citizens. The question of the period at which they should be allowed to exercise the franchise is one for careful consideration. To confer the franchise upon them before they understand the institutions of the country would be to inflict an injury upon them and upon the community at large."

It is only fair to the "Globe" to say that having delivered itself of this much truth, it proceeds to live up to its record by saying that the objections at first recited only apply to immigrants who settle in cities, and that the present naturalization laws, requiring three years' residence before voting, are a sufficient protection to the public interest.

The Montreal "Witness," being more honest than the "Globe," is more outspoken. It heads its article "The Hordes of Europe," and says:

"Talk of foreign missions! Canada seems likely before a year more is gone by to have upon her own domain a foreign mission work a hundred-fold greater than any she has ever done, in the task of Canadianizing the masses