

the nation he belongs, than that he is willing to live and die for the flag he serves under. The paragraph referred to as to the exclusion of the coloured people was a Canadian press despatch, and appeared in Liberal and Conservative newspapers alike. I quote from the Winnipeg 'Tribune' of March 22:

With regard to Canada, popular sentiment, which already has compelled the dominion government to place the virtually prohibitive tax of \$500 a head upon every Chinese entering the country, and which has shown itself so hostile to Indian and Japanese labour in the western provinces, now is manifesting a pronounced disposition to exact from the government at Ottawa stringent legislation barring the American negro from the Dominion.

I desire to ask the minister if the statements in this article are true? I quote from the 'Hansard' of yesterday, part of the discussion which took place on this question:

Mr. FOSTER. The presumption does not go so far as to say he is undesirable.

Mr. OLIVER. No, but there are many cases where the admission or exclusion of an immigrant depends on a strict or a lax interpretation of the law, so that if the immigrant is of what we would call the desirable class it may be that the restrictive provisions of the law are administered laxly, and if he is of the presumably less desirable class then they are administered more restrictedly. Beyond that there are no instructions to the immigration officers, but they are expected to act according to the instructions they have.

Now, I am unable to understand much from this language of the Minister of the Interior. His description of the enforcement of the regulation of his department reminds me of the peroration to a speech delivered by Mr. Delmas, a great United States criminal lawyer who, in explaining the fact that two and two are four, did it in this way:

'If beneath the unit two we place its fellow, and thereupon perform the operation known to mathematicians as addition we will speedily arrive at the result called by well informed and reputable mathematicians as four.'

I have to say that in my judgment the Minister of the Interior can put Mr. Delmas in the shade. I ask the minister if it is true, that Mr. Simpson was transferred to the cattle farm from the position he was entitled to in the naval service. I ask him also if it is true that a young coloured man who was entitled to a position in the Census Department did not get it. I ask him for what reason Bishop Hackett was removed from the corridors of the House of Commons last session. I ask him also if there is any sentiment in this country that he knows of in favour of placing a head tax of \$500 on coloured people coming to this

Mr. WILCOX.

country, the same as he does with regard to the Chinese. I may tell the Minister of the Interior that from my knowledge and experience of the coloured people, if it is his intention to place any such tax on them because of their colour, I will be diametrically opposed to it.

Mr. McCOIG (West Kent). Mr. Speaker, I represent the county adjoining that represented by my hon. friend (Mr. Wilcox), and in my section of the country there are a good many coloured farmers who are amongst the most industrious and successful citizens of the Dominion. I feel safe in saying, on the assurance of a letter I have received from the Minister of the Interior, that it is not the intention of the government to place a tax upon coloured people coming from the United States into Canada. I took the matter up with the Minister of the Interior some days ago, and he gave me a letter assuring me that so long as these coloured people were entitled to enter under the law, they would be admitted as freely as any other people who came to our country. I am glad to know that the government has taken that stand, because I would regret deeply if this government of which I am so proud and which I am so glad to support should in any way discriminate against coloured people, especially when we have amongst us men of that race who are doing their share to build up this Dominion. I hope the government will continue along the lines they have set out on, and allow the coloured people to come in so long as they are prepared to perform the duties of citizenship which are expected from every man in Canada.

Hon. FRANK OLIVER (Minister of the Interior.) I was unable to gather from the remarks of my hon. friend from Essex (Mr. Wilcox) just what information he wanted?

Mr. HUGHES. He asked a series of questions.

Mr. OLIVER. Would he mind repeating them so that I may be able to answer them?

Mr. WILCOX. I asked my hon. friend if it were true that one George Simpson, who had passed the Civil Service examination for a position in the Naval Department was transferred to the Department of Agriculture by reason of his colour. I also asked if it was true that a month or two ago a young man who had passed an examination for a position in the Census Department, and was also transferred to the Department of Agriculture because of his colour. I also asked for what reason Bishop Hackett was removed from the corridors of the House of Commons last session. I also asked if my hon. friend knew of any sentiment in Canada in favour of placing a tax of \$500 a head on coloured