

the largest number of immigrants that ever came into their country. In the year 1883, 788,000 immigrants settled in the United States, and in each of these ten years there was never less than half a million immigrants to that country. Therefore, if ever there was a time in the history of the Northwest when that country should have been settled it was the time when these roads were being constructed, when that money was being expended, and when that country was being so well advertised. That is the time we should have got our immigrants and kept them. I submit that owing to the peculiar policy adopted by the late government, the few emigrants that were brought into that country were allowed to go away. Now, Mr. Speaker, I believe that if there is any one question from which party politics should be entirely swept away it is the question of immigration.

Mr. WALLACE. Why have you not set the example thus far?

Mr. McCREARY. I think it has been done to a great extent, and I think before I am finished, I will be able to show that so far as the western portion of Canada is concerned it has been done.

Mr. WALLACE. I was speaking of the hon. gentleman's own speech.

Mr. McCREARY. I was not referring to this matter because the government was Conservative or Liberal; I merely mentioned a particular period, and you can call it what government you like which was in power then. As to excluding politics from this question of immigration, I shall quote the Hon. T. Mayne Daly, who, in the last report he made to this House after a trip to the old country, said:

The question of immigration should be considered entirely aside from politics. Both political parties should approach this subject from the standpoint of nationalism only and do all they can to assist in strengthening the government of the day in carrying out, this, in my humble opinion, the greatest work that presents itself to the government of the country.

Again, he says:

It is admitted on every hand by both political parties that the future welfare and prosperity of Canada is in a very large measure bound up by the peopling and developing of our great west from Port Arthur in Ontario to Vancouver Island on the Pacific. We have everything to offer the coming settler, and we can feel justified in encouraging the right class of people to come to make their homes amongst us. It has been calculated by American statesmen that each settler who takes up land in the United States is worth \$1,000 to the State. I agree with this estimate.

Mr. CLANCY. Are the Doukhobors worth that?

Mr. McCREARY. I will come to that in a moment. I shall give you the authority of gentlemen who are identified with the

Conservative party for nearly everything which I shall say to-day. The hon. gentlemen opposite should be satisfied with that authority. I say the Hon. T. Mayne Daly was correct in the statement he made at that time. In the United States, notwithstanding the political feuds that exist between the two parties, when the Democrats were in power the Republicans abstained from criticising their immigration policy, and the Democrats act in the same way when the Republicans are in power. The only criticism was by the labouring men when large numbers of people were imported from foreign countries to flock into the cities and cause strikes. It is not necessary for me to refer to the various reports made by the High Commissioners in England, Sir Charles Tupper and Lord Strathcona, in which they dealt with the immigration question entirely in a non-partisan spirit. And I want to say here on behalf of Sir Charles Tupper, that I have noticed that since he re-entered politics, he never criticised the policy of this government in regard to bringing in Galicians and Doukhobors. Although his satellites and party papers attacked those people as the scum of Europe, Sir Charles Tupper never made a statement derogatory of them, because he had been in England and on the continent of Europe, and had studied the situation. In his various reports he commended the very policy which this government are pursuing. I am glad to be able to compliment him in this respect.

The hon. gentleman (Mr. Wilson), in the first place, seemed to commend some features of the policy of the present government, especially the literature they have issued. Then he took up the question of the desirability of procuring immigrants from the British Isles. There are very few members of this House but will agree that if we were able to get suitable immigrants from the British Isles, they would be much better than those who come from continental Europe. However, I submit, after some experience, that the most desirable immigrant is not from Great Britain. The most desirable immigrant is the man from Ontario, and the older provinces of Canada, who has had some experience in the Western States, such as Kansas, Missouri, Wisconsin or Dakota, because he adds to his knowledge as a farmer here a valuable experience derived from living in a prairie country. With regard to getting immigration from Great Britain, the High Commissioners in their reports of the last ten years, have pointed out the difficulty; and the Hon. T. Mayne Daly, who went abroad to look into that question, explained very fully in his report why it was difficult to get immigrants from Great Britain. He showed that one of the causes why such a large number of people went from Ireland to the United States was that their passages were prepaid, and I will quote from his report what he says with