

ment, why cannot we have more of the French people in this country instead of bringing in these Galicians and Doukhobors. I see in a paper to-day that some one—I forget the name—asks why should not France colonize in Canada as well as anywhere else. We would be glad to see some of those French colonists amongst us, rather than many who are coming at present. The aim should be to people Canada with those who have the courage and the wish to build up the British Empire and perpetuate British institutions. We want men who have been brought up to respect and obey the laws in their own country, so that they will respect and obey the laws in Canada; and we also want people with whom our young folks can associate and assimilate. Do we find these qualities in the Galicians and Doukhobors? In my opinion, both of these races are very far indeed from coming within that category. They are physically strong, I believe; but is that all that is expected of them? We want a little more than that. We heard from the hon. member for St. Antoine, Montreal (Mr. Roddick) the other day, that they were more liable to tuberculosis than almost any other race of people he knew. If I understood him aright, he said that something like 10 per cent of them suffered from tuberculosis in their own country. As for physical strength, we know that some of the lowest types of humanity are physically strong.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). That is not an argument against these people.

Mr. **PRIOR**. The hon. gentleman says that is not an argument against them; but if the only thing the Government looks to is to get people who are physically strong, I think they ought to look for a little something else as well. Let us see what the newspapers published in the district to which these people have been brought, say about them. At the late session of the Edmonton district meeting of the Methodist Church, composed of all ministers and preachers of that denomination resident within its bounds, together with an equal number of laymen, the following was adopted and ordered to be forwarded as a memorial to the Manitoba and North-west Conference of the Methodist Church, now sitting in Winnipeg. This is the resolution:

That in the opinion of the district of Edmonton, the immigration of such a foreign element as represented by the Galicians is to be deplored. They are by no means a desirable class of settlers, and, coming in such numbers, they threaten our social, political and religious interests. We feel this the more strongly on account of the rapid development of the country by a much more desirable class; and be it resolved that Conference be memorialized to bring this matter before the Government as a strong protest against such immigration.

The same opinion was expressed by the Rev. Dr. Robertson, the Presbyterian Sup-

erintendent of North-west Missions, in recent utterances in his travels through Ontario. I may say that at the meeting at which that resolution was passed, there was present a gentleman who was a strong partisan of the present Government, and who tried to have it laid on the Table for six months; but he was overruled, and the memorial was sent forward. We find also the following letter in the Neepawa "Press," a Liberal paper:—

The Galicians are being put on the lists whether they are qualified to be there or not. It must be a pleasant reflection for those British and Canadian-born citizens who, by the Greenway registration clerks, have been disfranchised by wholesale, and prevented from exercising their natural right of having a voice in the government of their country, to find the right of which they are deprived being widely and illegally accorded to these ignorant aliens. It must be almost equally galling to those free and independent subjects of native birth who have succeeded in getting on the lists, to find that their votes can be cancelled by the wholesale stuffing of the lists with these unqualified foreigners, who, besides owing allegiance to a foreign state, know nothing of the constitution and laws of this country, and will record their votes at the dictation of the officials of the Administration by whom they have been imported and fed, and from whom they are securing special privileges which are denied to Britons and Canadians.

According to that, the people in that country seem to feel that there is a danger of having these men put on the lists without knowing anything of our constitution or laws. At election time they might be able to carry anything they wished for people who would fulfil their desires. A paper called the "West," of Regina, of the 15th of June, said:

Surely the Government has received enough evidence to demonstrate that the immigration policy now being pursued is a very objectionable one to the people of the North-west. If enough evidence has not been submitted to convince them, then we must despair of ever succeeding, because it would be almost impossible to have greater unanimity than that presented by the North-west in its opposition to the Galician and Doukhobor immigration. The Liberals in the North-west—that is, all except paid servants and that portion of the press which is Liberal because there is money in it—are as strongly opposed to this wholesale foreign importation as are the Conservatives. It is almost impossible to find a rank-and-file Liberal who does not condemn the Government for what they are doing. Even Liberal M.P.'s speak strongly against the policy. The Methodists of Northern Alberta are the latest to condemn Sifton's methods. The resolutions they passed were very pointed, and lacked entirely any partisan flavour. It was a pure condemnation of the course being pursued by the Government, because that course they considered wrong. On the head of this comes word that people in Saskatchewan are petitioning the Government to remove the Galicians from there because they are a curse to that district, and are retarding the progress of the English-speaking settlements. Everywhere it is the same thing. The English-speaking people have become alarmed, and well they might. They see