

citizens of our great west. For, if we wait for population to go from the east to the west, that land will remain sterile and unproductive for centuries to come. We have six millions of people in Canada—and terror in the hearts of some of them because 7,000 Galicians have come amongst us. Dr. Robertson, of the Presbyterian Missions, relates an incident that shows what we may expect of these people. It may be a small matter, but to my mind it indicates that these Galicians will make that country a better country than it is. He was passing a school, a school that was taught by an English teacher, while the children were just beginning to learn English. He saw a little girl with blue eyes and fair hair—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. FRASER. Oh, hon. gentlemen opposite need not interpose. I will relieve their feelings by saying that she was not more than that high. Dr. Robertson said to the little girl: 'You are a Galician, are you?' 'No, sir,' said she, 'I am a Canadian.' This is one of the things to indicate what has happened in the history of every nation in the world among whom outside people have come to live—the newcomers have caught the spirit of the country and their surroundings and have become good citizens. And particularly does this happen when the newcomers come out into liberty from barbarism and oppression. There is no better way to make good citizens than to remove people from despotism and give them liberty to expand their energies. I am not afraid of these people. And why? Because I am not afraid of myself. If I lived in the Northwest, I would not be afraid of 17,000 Galicians, I would feel humiliated if I could not take my place against ten or twenty or fifty people that could not speak my language. I hope the Dominion of Canada will be broad in this matter. I would exclude any vicious man from Canada if I could. I would put a mark on any criminal seeking to come in. But I should be ashamed of myself if I desired to keep out of Canada any man who came here to better his condition and who was willing to toil at any legitimate employment for a wage that would support himself and family. I admit that I do not know as much about that country as my hon. friend from Alberta. But the hon. gentleman is not the only one who is entitled to express an opinion on this matter. The hon. gentleman from Selkirk (Mr. McCreary), who spoke this afternoon, has a different opinion from that of the hon. member from Alberta. These hon. gentlemen are equally brilliant, and, I suppose are equally entitled, so far as the possession of information is concerned, to speak on this subject. But I am aware of one fact, and that is that there is not a railway in Manitoba or the North-west Territories that has not discovered that after the first year the Galician and the Doukhobor make as good

Mr. FRASER.

men as any from eastern Canada or any part of the world. I myself saw Doukhobors and Galicians in charge of men, and this after they had been here only two or three years. Not too bad citizens were these. I do not suppose that the railway company, which has neither soul to be saved nor body to be burned, would employ these men because they were Galicians or Doukhobors. They employ them on commercial principles and because they give the best returns for the wages paid to them. No, Mr. Speaker, what we need above all is not to be too fastidious in order to please any particular section of men. What we need in Canada is to keep in the older provinces every man we have here; but, if conditions are such that any man feels that he must leave the east, let him go to our mighty country in the west and seek their employment, and let that country be filled with the people who for industry and morals command our admiration. At Halifax, when these Doukhobors arrived, there was a scene that will never be forgotten. As the ship came into harbour what did these people do? I commend this particularly to hon. gentlemen opposite—as the ship came in and these immigrants fell on their knees, they sang hymns and praised the Maker of us all that they had reached in safety a land of freedom.

Shall we not now and always welcome to our shores men who recognize the higher and greater Power that rules over the destinies of men? Shall we speak against them? No. Shall we not rather encourage men who flee for religious and social reasons from a tyranny, and come here to enjoy the institutions underlying British freedom? I am not afraid of the consequences to this country. Why, Mr. Speaker, 400 miles north of where my hon. friend lives, the wheat was raised that got a first-class certificate at the exhibition in Chicago. The greater part of that land is not occupied. If we remain until the people of eastern Canada go there, the sons and the daughters of members opposite, as well as others, how long shall we remain? Shall we not rather do what we can at once to have those acres made productive—perhaps not with all the success that the best farmers of Ontario have achieved, although even they complain that they are not doing better? But, if they do not achieve all that success, they will, at least, achieve such success as will make themselves and the country prosperous, and enable their sons to do better, in consequence of the knowledge acquired by their fathers, and to become better citizens. I approve what has been done by the government, because they have brought into that country men who, I believe, will be good citizens. They may not have all the polish, they may not be able to speak with all the correctness of an educated Englishman. But, if they have good hearts, and steady hands, and are will-