

vince the House without trespassing too long on its time and attention. I trust, however, I have made out a case which will commend itself to this House and the government. If some such treatment as I have suggested is meted out to the maritime provinces, the added stimulus which will be given to the feeling of hopefulness and sturdy optimism, which are already making their presence felt there, will make for such development as will place these provinces on equal footing with the most prosperous of any in Canada. Not only will the benefit inure to the maritime provinces, but we can then accomplish our full share in making for that growth and development which will—I believe—before the middle of this century make Canada the wonder and admiration of the world.

Mr. R. BICKERDIKE (Montreal, St. Lawrence). I do not rise to criticise in any way the very eloquent speech made by the hon. gentleman who has just addressed the House (Mr. Rhodes) in urging on this government the claims of the maritime provinces and particularly of his own province of Nova Scotia. But a similar argument would apply to the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. I think that all our eastern provinces have been neglected to a certain extent by the rush to the great west; but why I rose particularly is to point out again to the hon. the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Rogers) some defects in our present Immigration Act. Clause 28 of that Act provides that immigrants coming to Canada shall be inspected and examined on landing in this country. But the ground I take is that they should be inspected and examined before being allowed to sail from the other side. If that were done, a great many cases of hardship and a number of serious divisions of families would be avoided. There is one case to which I would draw attention. A father and mother and five children were about to land in this country when it was discovered that the youngest child, some four years old was afflicted with Trachoma. The father remained in this country but the child had to be sent back and naturally the mother had to go back with it. Now, if that family had been inspected on the other side before getting on board the immigrant ship, that separation would have been avoided. I shall not detain the House but simply wish to point out two or three sections of our Immigration Act which ought to be amended. In fact I think the whole Act might well be burned and a new one drafted. Take for instance the provision regarding the amount of money which an immigrant must have before being allowed to land. Every immigrant desiring to enter Canada must have in his possession \$50 during certain months

Mr. RHODES.

instead of \$25. But why should a good man, a desirable immigrant, be obliged to have \$50 in his pocket at any time. Had such a provision been in force years ago, when I was a boy, there are many in this House who would not be now in this country.

If a good man came with only \$10, I would let him in, and if a bad man came with \$5,000, I would keep him out. I think there ought to be some way of getting over that requirement. There are some people who are exempt from it—farm labourers and domestic servants; but if a man is an engineer, or a blacksmith, or a carpenter, he cannot come in except under that regulation. Another regulation is that no immigrant of Asiatic origin shall be allowed to enter Canada unless in possession of \$200. According to that, if a man is born in India or any other part of Asia, and wants to come to Canada to spend the balance of his life here, he cannot come into this country unless he has \$200. If he is not a desirable citizen, the possession of \$200 will not constitute him one. I wish to draw the minister's attention to these points, and I hope he will give them his consideration.

Mr. W. F. CARROLL (South Cape Breton). Mr. Speaker, the resolution which has been introduced by the hon. member for Cumberland (Mr. Rhodes) is one of great importance to every maritime province man, and for that reason I desire to make a few observations upon it. I congratulate my hon. friend from Cumberland on his very able presentation of the case, to which he must have given a vast amount of study. I have very much pleasure in supporting the resolution. My hon. friend has spoken of the immigration policy of the late government, and of other governments with respect to western Canada. Personally I do not think there has been too much money spent in promoting immigration to the west, but there has not been enough money spent in bringing the maritime provinces to the attention of European countries. Not only have we had very little immigration into these provinces, but we have not been successful in holding our own people. It is of vastly more importance to the maritime provinces that we should retain our native-born population than that we should bring in numbers of undesirable immigrants from Europe. We in the eastern section of Nova Scotia, in the industrial portion of the island of Cape Breton, have not very much to complain of. The population in the constituency which I have the honour to represent has almost doubled in the last ten years. What surprises me is that my hon. friend from Cumberland, with all the attention he has given to this subject, has suggested no cure for the loss of population we have had in Nova Scotia for the last ten or twelve