

9 EDWARD VII., A. 1909

regulations that will permit such apparent neglect in the inspection of persons seeking and obtaining passage as immigrants to this country. The whole system of encouraging such people to seek a home in Canada is wrong and the sooner the conditions complained of are recognized and changed the better. It has cost this country a large expenditure during the past year that might have been largely avoided if a more rigid system of investigation and inspection had been made before allowing undesirable immigrants to embark for Canada. The system that permits and encourages immigration without a proper discrimination cannot be defended. Some of the prisoners in our jails do not hesitate to place the responsibility for immigration on the agents abroad who urge them to seek shelter in this country. During the past year it has cost the prisons and public charities of Ontario thousands of dollars to provide for these people, many of whom are quite incapable of earning a living here. Several of them have, when landed in this country, been afflicted with chronic diseases which could not pass unobserved if a proper inspection had been made. It is a mistake to think that the inspection can be made satisfactorily in the hurry and bustle of landing on this side of the Atlantic. The inspection to be successful should be made before embarking in the old country.

Mr. MOLLOY.—I hope the department and the government will do everything possible to keep out undesirable settlers, those suffering from disease, and I hope the department will be just as wide awake regarding the people who go from the province of Ontario to the west for if there are any greater scoundrels to be found I would like to know where. The coming of some of those people to this country cannot be avoided. They are bound to come into the country.

Mr. MONK.—I rise to a point of order. A question was asked of Mr. Scott and I think Mr. Scott should be given an opportunity of answering that question.

Mr. BLAIN.—Does not the honourable member think it would be a good thing not to have that word 'scoundrels' go down.

Mr. MOLLOY.—The term 'scoundrel' would apply to those who were arrested and prosecuted in the west last year.

Mr. BLAIN.—My honourable friend makes a general statement that those who go westward from the province of Ontario are scoundrels. I do not think my honourable friend would like that to go down.

Mr. MONK.—I think everything should go down. There is a question put to Mr. Scott which I think should be answered.

A. I did not understand the question.

Q. I understood you to say that no undesirables or people mentally or physically weak were allowed to land in this country, and then I read this statement from the report of the Inspector of Prisons for Ontario.

A. It is the Ontario government report and I would not like to express an opinion about it.

Q. It is the report of the Inspector of Prisons and Jails.

A. I might state this. I have some figures here which show that during the last calendar year, that is the year 1908, we refused admission at Canadian ocean ports to 634 immigrants.

*By Mr. Wilson (Lennox and Addington):*

Q. Why should they have not been refused on the other side of the water?

A. We have no inspectors there.

Q. They should have been—that is my opinion.