

Mr. ARMAND LAVERGNE. He said he was an imperialist before being a Canadian.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Yes.

Mr. ARMAND LAVERGNE. Well, perhaps I made a mistake, because the British people were wise enough in the last elections to show they would have nothing to do with imperialism. Again, the French Canadians have an entirely different civilization which separates them from the people of the American republic. Their aspirations, their race, their language, separates them from the United States. On the other hand, the English Canadian has nothing but an imaginary line which separates him from the United States, and I think I am right in saying that every day, English civilization is becoming more closely allied to what I might call Americanism. It seems to me that the government would be doing a wise thing if they brought to this country French emigrants who would be assimilated by the French Canadian people, and who would strengthen them to assist the British people in resisting the growing influences of Americanism in Canada. But it seems that the government has not been considering that side of the question and has no other ambition than the stuffing of the Northwest with a foreign population. We realize the truth of this when we look at the Auditor General's Report and compare the expenditure made to secure this foreign element with the expenditure made to bring British or French people to Canada. In the Auditor General's Report for 1905, page L-13, it will be found that of the expenditure on immigration in 1904-5, \$77,000 was spent in the United States, \$52,673 in Great Britain, \$13,000 in France and Belgium. In addition bonuses were paid in the United States to the amount of \$5,860. But the North Atlantic Trading Company, which had its field in continental Europe—France and Belgium being excluded and accounted for by this \$13,000 I have referred to—received no less than \$111,000. Thus it will be seen that by far the largest expenditure was upon this continental immigration which is so largely made up of elements almost impossible of assimilation in Canada. And am I not right in saying that the contract which the government now will have with the booking agents and steamship companies is most unwise and uncalled for? The Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) has said that fair criticism was always welcome. It seems to me the fairest of fair criticism when I quote the figures of the department's own expenditure to show that more is devoted to promoting this foreign immigration than to bringing in people of our own kin. This order in council which we are now discussing, passed by the government on February 19 last, was adopted by the government without authority from parliament. We do not

know for how long this arrangement has been made for no details appear in the order in council except that fees are to be paid to selected steamship booking agents in continental Europe, including France and Belgium. Judging from the past, I assume that the immigration from France and Belgium will be looked after by one agent who is able but overworked and another who is an invalid.

This system for which the country is paying has already been condemned by the government. The Minister of the Interior last year, when defending the North Atlantic Trading Company contract, said that the government did not want to deal any more with individual booking agents, and therefore entered into the contract with the North Atlantic Trading Company, and not very long afterwards, the contract with that company was cancelled. Why? Because the North Atlantic Trading Company was not living up to its obligations so that there was a decrease of immigration under its operation. Sir, if the North Atlantic Trading Company could not be supervised by this government, how are all the individual booking agents in continental Europe to be under the supervision of the government? How is the government to be reasonably assured that the character of the immigrants, the health, the nationality, the ideal of the immigrants, will be in accord with the needs of this country and with our hopes for its future? It seems to me that the order in council itself, in contrast with the previous declaration of the Minister of the Interior, is the strongest condemnation of the government's policy.

Moreover, it must be remembered that the arrangement under this order in council covers the same territory as did that of the North Atlantic Trading Company. Therefore we shall be faced by the same international difficulties; our agents will be obliged to work in deep secrecy, because, should their work become known, they will be obliged either to commit suicide or go to prison—for that is the dilemma which faced the representatives of the North Atlantic Trading Company, according to the government. The only object that these booking agents will have will be to get the bonus and fare for transportation of the immigrant. It seems to me that, if we want to have good immigration into the west, if we want to have immigrants who will be in accord with our national ideas, the best settlers of all are Canadians born. Canada to-day produces more emigrants to other countries, according to its population, than any other country in the world. Why not divert this emigration as to make it a migration within our own country and fill up the west with our own people? There is to-day an actual discrimination against the Canadian who wishes to settle in our Northwest, because it is to-day actually cheaper for a man to come from a for-