

tain amount of immigration that comes from central Europe there is not very much from southern Europe, none from Italy and practically none from France. The bulk of it comes from the countries north and east of those which I have mentioned. The North Atlantic Trading Company devote themselves chiefly to the Scandinavian countries. The immigrants which come as a result of their labours are listed and statements are sent to us showing the numbers, names and all particulars in regard to them so that we have an absolute check upon the people who are sent by that company. We know exactly who are sent to this country and in case any of these persons turn out to be undesirable we deport them and charge back against the company the cost of doing so. So, there is the very best system of weeding out and selecting that it would be possible to have. That is the reason why it is found, as the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Roche) has said, that when you come to look at these people you find that they are people who have been carefully selected. It is true that they are not all millionaires or college graduates, but, they are respectable, sober, intelligent and capable people and the result of their efforts after coming to this country shows that they possess these characteristics. I have very little more to say upon this subject, because I have only touched briefly, as I could only do at this hour of the evening, upon the important points that have been raised by the hon. gentlemen who have spoken in opposition to the policy of the department. I have just to say in general that I think, if hon. members of this House would give the subject a little consideration they will come to the conclusion that the result of the work of the department in connection with immigration during the last seven years has been that out of practically nothing we have built up a system under which we have been able to secure very large and very desirable acquisitions to our population. I think they will admit, however, that there is no work in all Canada at the present time which is more important or which is more conducive to the prosperity and greatness of the country and I think they will admit that anything that would stop the movement of population which is going on at the present time would be a national disaster to the Dominion of Canada. I cannot at this moment conceive anything which would have a more disastrous effect upon the Dominion of Canada than, for instance, at the end of this year to have it known that the movement of population and the filling up of our vacant lands, was about to cease and that this movement was about to stop. I do not think that any man who knows anything about the business situation of Canada would disagree with me when I say that it would be about the most disastrous thing that could

possibly happen, and that it is the duty of the Department of the Interior to go on with the work which it has been carrying on, disregarding the more captious criticisms which have been made in regard to that work. Let me say one thing further and I will give to the members of the House my opinion on this subject which they can take for what it is worth. I have been identified with this work for six or seven years, and before I took office under this government I had an opportunity of paying some little attention to immigration work in connection with the government of the province of Manitoba of which I was a member, and more or less for the last ten or twelve years my attention has been directed to the subject. By devoting a very ordinary amount of intelligence to it, I think I should have been able in all that time to form an opinion that would be of some value. Whatever the value of that opinion may be I give it to the House for what it is worth. There are a great many people who think that at the present time, because attention has been directed to Canada, it is therefore unnecessary to spend any more money or keep up the work and the propaganda we are carrying on, that attention having been attracted to Canada to such an extent, if we ceased advertising and called in our agents the movement would keep on, that we would still continue to get about as many people in the country and that we might therefore look to continued accessions to our population without any further expenditure. I think that is an entire mistake. I think there could be no mistake possibly made which would be a greater mistake than that. I am perfectly convinced that if the Department of the Interior and other departments of the government withdrew from the work of encouraging immigration and disseminating information in regard to Canada and called in its agents within two years the movement would practically cease. We might get 10,000 or 15,000 or 20,000 people a year, but we would not get many more than that and they would be less desirable than the people we are getting in at the present time. It is the best of the people who come to-day.

Mr. BELL. May I ask the hon. minister how that statement that he has just made squares with the experience of the United States?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I do not think the experience of the United States is in point at all. I do not think that the United States have made any special effort to secure immigration. Any person who has at all considered that question knows perfectly well that the movement of population into the United States was not the result of any effort made on the part of the United States, but that does