RUDYARD KIPLING WRITES ON CANADA

The Author of "My Lady of the Snows" Has a Different Story To Tell of His Most Recent Visit to the Foremost Colony in Greater Britain.

Kipling's articles on Canada in Collier's Weekly make good reading. Treating of "The Relations at Work" he writes in this article:—

An up-country proverb says: "She was bidden to the wedding and set down to grind corn." The same fate, reversed, overtook me on my little excursion. There is a crafty network of organizations of business men called Canadian clubs. They catch people who look interesting, assemble their members during the midday lunch hour, and, tying the victim to a steak, bid him discourse on anything that he knows. The idea might be copied elsewhere, since it takes men out of themselves to listen to matters not otherwise coming under their notice, and, at the same time, does not hamper their work. It is safely short, too. The whole affair can not exceed an hour of which the lunch fills half. The clubs print their speeches annually, and one gets cross-sections of many interesting questions—from practical forestry to state mints—all set out by experts.

Not being an expert, the experience to me, was very like hard work. Till then I had thought speech making was a sort of conversational whist, that anybody could cut in at. I perceive now that it is an art of conventions remote from anything that comes out of an inkpot, and of colors hard to control. The Canadians seem to like listening to speeches, and, though this is by no means a national vice, they make good oratory on occasion. You know the old belief that the white man, on brown, red, or black lands, will throw back in manner and instinct to the type originally bred there? Thus, a speech in the taal should carry the deep roll, the direct belly-appeal, the reiterated, cuming arguments and the few simple metaphors of the prince of commercial orators, the Bantu. A New Zealander is said to speak from his diaphragm, hands cleuched at the sides, as the old Maoris need. What we know of first-class Australian oratory shows us the same alertness, swift flight and clean delivery as a boomerang. I had half expected in Canadian speeches some survival of the Redskin's elaborate appeal to suns, moons and mountains—touches of grandiosity and ceremonial invocations. But nothing that I heard was referable to any primitive stock. There was a dignity, a restraint and, above all, a weight in it, rather curious when one thinks of the influences to which the land lies open; but a thing as much by itself as the speakers.

So with the Canadian's new gestures and the bearing of his body. During the war one watched the contingents from every point of view, and most likely, drew wrong inferences. It struck me then that the Canadian, even when tied, slacked off less than the men from the hot countries, and while resting did not lie on his back or his belly, but rather on his side, a leg doubled under him, ready to raise in one surge.

This time while I watched assemblies seated, men in hotels and passers-by, I fancied that he kept this habit of semi-tenseness at home among his own; that it was the complement of the man's still countenance, and the even, lowered voice. Looking at their foot marks on the ground they seem to throw an almost straight track, neither splayed nor in-toed, and to set their feet down with a gentle forward pressure, rather like the Australian's stealthy footfall. Talking among themselves, or waiting for friends they did not drum with their fingers, fiddle with their feet, or feel the hair on their face. These things seem trivial enough, but when breeds are in the making everything is worth while. A man told me once—but I never tried the experiment—that each of our Four Races light and handle fire in their own way.

Small wonder we differ! Here is a people with no people at their backs, driving the great world-plow which wins the world's bread up and up over the shoulder of the world—a spectacle as it might be, out of some tremendous Norse legend. North of them lies Niflheim's enduring cold, with the flick and crackle of the Aurora for Bifrost Bridge that Odin and the Aesirs visited. These people also go north year by year, and drag audacious railways with them. Sometimes they burst into good wheat or timberland, sometimes into mines of treasure, and all the north is full of voices—as South Africa was once—telling discoveries and making prophecies.

When their winter comes, over the greater part of this country outside the cities, they must sit still, and eat and drink as the Aesir did. In summer they cram twelve months' work into six, because between such and such dates certain far rivers will shut, and, later, certain others, till at last even the Great Eastern Gate at Quebec locks, and men must go in and out by the side-doors at Halifax and St. John. These are conditions that make for extreme boldness, but not for extravagant boastings.

The red maples tell when it is time to finish, and all work in hand is regulated by their warning signal. Some jobs can be put through before winter; others must be laid aside ready to jump forward without a lost minute in spring. Thus, from Quebec to Calgary a note of drive—not hustle, but drive and finish up—hummed like the stream threshers on the still autumn air.

The Winter's Tale.

Hunters and sportsmen were coming in from the north; prospectors with them, their faces full of mystery, their pockets full of samples, like prospectors the world over. They had already been wearing wolf and coon skin coats. In the great cities which work the year round, carriage shops exhibited one or two seductive nickel plated sledges, as a hint; for the sleigh is "the chariot at hand here of Love." In the country the farm houses were stacking up their wood piles within reach of the kitchen door, and taking down the fly screens. (One leaves these on, as a rule, till the double windows are brought up from the cellar, and one has to hunt all over the house for missing screws.) Sometimes one saw a few flashing lengths of new stovepipe in a backyard, and pitied the owner. There is no humor in the old, bitter-true stovepipe jests of the comic papers.

But the railways—the wonderful railways—told the winter's tale most emphatically. The thirty-ton coal cars were moving over three thousand miles of track. They grunted and lurched against each other in the switch yards, or thumped past stately at midnight on their way to provident housekeepers of the prairie towns. It was not a clear way either; for the bacon, the lard, the apples, the butter, and the cheese, in beautiful white wood barrels, were rolling eastward toward the steamers before the wheat should descend on them. That is the fifth act of the great Year play for which the stage must be cleared. On scores of congested sidings lay huge girders, rolled beams, limbs and boxes of rivets, once intended for the late Quebec bridge—now so much mere obstruction—and the victuals had to pick their way through 'em; and behind the victuals was the lumber—clean wood out of the mountains—logs, planks, clapboards and laths, for which we pay such sinful prices in England—all seeking the sea. There was housing, food, and fuel for millions, on wheels together, and never a grain yet shifted of the real staple which men for five hundred miles were threshing out in heaps as high as fifty-pound villas.

Add to this that the railways were concerned for their own new developments—double trackings, loops, cut-offs, taps and feeder lines, and great swoops out into untouched lands soon to be filled with men. So the construction, ballast and material trains, the grading machines, the wrecking cars with their camel-like sneering cranes—the whole plant of a new civilization—had to find room somewhere in the general rally before nature cried: "Lay off!"

"Does any one remember that joyful strong confidence after the war, when it seemed that at last, South Africa was to be developed—when men laid out railways, and gave orders for engines, and fresh rolling stock, and labor, and believed gloriously in the future? It is true the hope was murdered afterwards, but—multiply that good hour by a thousand, and you will have some idea of how it feels to be in Canada—a place which even an "imperial" government can not kill. I had the luck to be shown some things from the inside—to listen to the details of works projected; the record of works done. Above all, I saw what had actually been achieved in the fifteen years since I had last come that way. One advantage of a new land is that it makes you feel older than time. I met cities where there had been nothing—literally, absolutely nothing, except, as the fairy tales say, "the birds crying, and the grass waving in the wind." Villages and hamlets had grown to great towns and the great towns themselves had trebled and quadrupled. And the railways rubbed their hands and cried, like the Afrites of old: "Shall we make a city where no city is; or render flourishing a city that is desolate?" They do it, too, while, across the water, gentlemen never forced to suffer one day's physical discomfort in all their lives, pipe up and say: "How grossly materialistic!"

Material Exploration.

I wonder sometimes whether any eminent novelist, philosopher, dramatist, or divine of today has to exercise half the pure imagination, not to mention height, endurance, and self-restraint, which is accepted without comment in what is called "the material exploitation" of a new country. Take only the question of creating a new city at the junction of two lines—all three in the air. The mere drama of it, the play of the human virtues, would fill a book. And when the work is finished, when the city is, when the new lines embrace a new belt of farms and the tide of the wheat has rolled north another unexpected degree, the men who did it break off, without compliments, to repeat the joke elsewhere.

I had some talk with a youngish man whose business it was to train avalanches to jump clear of his section of the track. They went to Jotunheim only once or twice, and he had his useful hammer Mjolnir with him. This Thor lived in Jotunheim among the green-ice-crowned peaks of the Selkirks—where if you disturb the giants at certain seasons of the year, by making noises, they will sit upon you and all your fine emotions. So Thor watches them glaring under the May suns, or dull doubly dangerous beneath the spring rains. He wards off their strokes with enormous brattices of wood, wing-walls of logs bolted together, and such other contraptions as experience teaches. He bears the giants no malice; they do their work, he his. What bothers him a little is that the wind of the blows sometimes rips pines out of the opposite hillsides—explodes, as it were, a whole valley. He thinks, however, he can fix things so as to split large avalanches into little ones.

Another man, to whom I did not talk, sticks in my memory. He had for years and years inspected trains at the head of a heavyish grade in the mountains—though not half so steep as the Hex—where all brakes are jammed home, and the cars slither warily for ten miles. Tire-troubles there would be inconvenient, so he, as the best man, is given the heaviest job—monotony and responsibility combined. He did me the honor of wanting to speak to me, but first he inspected his train—on all fours with a hammer. By the time he was satisfied of the integrity of the underpinnings it was time for us to go; and all that I got was a friendly wave of the hand—a master craftsman's sign, you might call it.

Canada seems full of this class of materialist.

Which reminds me that the other day I saw the Lady herself in the shape of a tall woman of twenty-five or six, waiting for her train on a street corner. She wore her almost flaxen-gold hair waved and parted low on the forehead, beneath a black astrachan toque, with a red enamel maple leaf hatpin in one side of it. This was the one touch of color except the flicker of a buckle on the shoe. The dark, tailor-made dress had no trinkets or attachments, but fitted perfectly. She stood for perhaps a minute without any movement, both hands—right bare, left gloved—hanging naturally at her sides, the very fingers still, the weight of the superb body carried evenly on both feet, and the profile, which was that of Gudrun or Aslauga, thrown out against a dark stone column. What struck me most, next to the grave, tranquil eyes, was her slow, unhurried breathing in the heavy about her. She was evidently a regular fare, for when her train stopped she smiled at the lucky conductor; and the last I saw of her was a flash of the sun on the red maple-leaf, the full face still lighted by that smile, and her hair very pale gold against the dead black fur. But the power of the mouth, the wisdom of the brow, the human comprehension of the eyes, and the outstriking vitality of the creature remained. That is how I would have my country dawn, were I a Canadian—and hung in Ottawa parliament house, for the discouragement of prevaricators.

THE DOUKHOBORS

A few days ago, Mr. T. Chisholm, M.P. for East Huron, entertained the House with his views of the moral conditions of certain Doukhobor residents of Fort William, Ontario, interlarding extracts from newspapers, describing their fanatical freaks. In reply, the Minister of the Interior spoke as follows (from Hansard):

Hon. Frank Oliver (Minister of the Interior)—I presume that the reading with which my hon. friend from Huron entertained the House a little while ago was just as useful a manner of obstructing the business as any other that he could adopt.

Mr. Uriah Wilson—I do not think that is fair.

Some hon. Members—Order.

Mr. Oliver—And the remarks made by my hon. friends opposite are about as much in keeping with the facts and the occasion as is usual under such circumstances.

Opposed Them Coming.

As to the responsibility for the Doukhobors in Canada, my hon. friend from Lennox (Mr. Uriah Wilson) has reminded the House that he and I were opposed to the movement to bring them here. I do not at this date remember how far our opposition went or to what extent we voiced our opinions on the floor of the House, but I remember very distinctly that if we voiced our opposition we were the only members of parliament who did. At the time of the bringing of the Doukhobors to Canada public opinion in Canada, I believe, with the exception of my hon. friend and myself, was quite unanimously in favor of the movement, and endorsed it in every particular as being a movement for the advantage of the country.

Mr. Uriah Wilson—Would the hon. minister allow me? I do not wish to interrupt or contradict him, but I think the feeling was that immigrants were wanted.

Mr. Oliver—Yes.

Mr. Uriah Wilson—And that they were almost glad to get any kind to get a start. It was not especially because they were Doukhobors, as I understand.

Welcomed Because Persecuted.

Mr. Oliver—I had not stated that yet, but I propose to say so now. Part of my argument was that, with the exception of my hon. friend and myself, so far as I know, public opinion was unanimously in favor of the movement to bring these people, one reason, as was stated by my hon. friend, being that the country needed and wanted immigrants; these people were immigrants, and therefore they were welcomed with both arms by both sides of this House and by the people all over the country. But there was another reason why they were especially welcomed, they were looked upon as a persecuted people, persecuted for religion's sake, as the people of this country understood at that time, and it was because they were a people persecuted for religion's sake that they were more especially welcomed by so many in Canada. It was strange to hear certain gentlemen on the other side who have spoken tonight denounce these people as being unreligious and immoral and undesirable from this point of view, when the very basis of their being brought to this country was that they were too religious for the country in which they lived. The trouble with these people who are today in Fort William is not that they lack in religion, or in the ordinary observances of religious life, but that they are fanatics, that they have gone to extremes in their theories in regard to their religion, until, as our friend from Mackenzie (Mr. Cash) has said, they are, to all intents and purposes, insane. As regards the conditions prevailing in Fort William, I deplore them quite as much as any member in this House, and I am sure that to-night's discussion will draw the attention of the authorities, who are really responsible, to that condition and probably induce them to take some action. These people are not immigrants. They have been seven years settled in the country and have earned their right to citizenship twice over if they would have accepted it. This government has therefore no right or authority to interfere. These people are subject to the laws of Ontario, and if they in any way contravene these laws, it is for the provincial authorities to take such proceedings as may be necessary. They are residents of Ontario, and this government has no authority to punish them for any offences against decency or good living. We have an immigration law which gives the Federal government authority to deport people under certain circumstances, but that deportation must take place within two years after arrival. An arrival is an immigrant subject to deportation in two years, but these people have been here seven years. Any responsibility which pertains to this government we are prepared to discharge, but we are not prepared to assume a responsibility which rests entirely on the province.

Settlers on Doukhobor Lands.

My hon. friend from Dufferin (Dr. Barr) spoke most feelingly of the hardship inflicted on Canadians who had acquired Doukhobor lands in the rush at Yorkton last year. He has hardly stated the case correctly. This government has not interfered with the right of any of these people to hold their land. They can hold them six, eight, ten or twelve months so far as we are concerned; but if some other Canadian comes along and demands that land at the end of the six months, one Canadian is as good as another, and the man has not carried out his agreement must lose his land.

Mr. Barr—Is there any difference made between a Canadian and an American?

Mr. Oliver—Not a bit of difference in the eyes of this government, only in the eyes of my hon. friend. This government is not taking any land away from those people who have taken it up. They take it up subject to the consideration that they shall go into residence on it within six months from the date of entry; and if another man comes afterwards, at the end of that six months and says this other man has not fulfilled his agreement and I want that land, the government says it is yours.

As to "Undesirables."

I do not think it is necessary that I should go into the general question of immigration. I am sorry to hear some of my friends object so strongly to some immigrants who have come within the past year, but I want to say that this government absolutely denies any responsibility for their presence. Further than that, it is part of the policy of this government and its administration that any of these people who have been in this country less than two years may, under certain circumstances and conditions which are well known, be sent back to the country whence they came on proper demand being made and proper procedure being taken. If these people are objectionable, they can easily be sent away. But that can only be done under the law on the demand of the municipal authorities. If the municipal authorities do not see fit to make such a demand this government is powerless to act.

The Doukhobors.

As regards the Doukhobors, I have nothing to say for or against them. They have been in this country seven years. There were about 8,000 of them altogether. They have been, as my hon. friend from Mackenzie (Mr. Cash) has said, moral, law abiding and industrious, and in every way worthy residents except that they have not, as a whole, taken upon themselves the responsibilities and the rights of citizenship. But in morality, industry, thrift and law abiding character, and in their enthusiastic belief in the Christian religion, they are not second to any class of our population. It is only fair that that much should be said on their behalf. There was the objection made for some time they were holding a large amount of land which they were not cultivating, contrary to the spirit and letter of our land laws. But that situation has been changed. The land they held in excess is now occupied by other people. They have been here seven years, during which they have added to the wealth of the country by production on their farms, by labor on our railways and in the woods and in other ways. They have interfered with nobody. They have enterprises which are a credit to them and a model to other people, and I am very sorry that such expressions should have been used towards them as we have heard today. These expressions could only have been used out of a lack of knowledge of the facts. I cannot imagine that any hon. gentleman would so distort the fact, if he really knew the facts as they are.

Mr. Lancaster—The hon. gentleman has said that this government is not responsible in any way for the presence of these people.

House Endorsed Doukhobors Coming.

Mr. Oliver—The government of that day was certainly responsible for the presence of the Doukhobors, but its policy in that regard was unanimously endorsed by this House, barring, I believe, my hon. friend and myself, so far as I know.

Where Responsibility Lies.

But I did say that the government was not responsible in any way, shape or manner for the immigrants to whom my hon. friend from Huron took such strong objection, that is to say, the immigrants principally from the old country who are now unemployed in some of the cities and centres of population in Ontario.

Mr. Lancaster—Who are responsible?

Mr. Oliver—The charitable associations and organizations of the old country in a large degree; so far as we have been able to discover, and we have followed up the matter very carefully, both on the other side of the water and on this.

Passages Not Paid

Mr. Bergeron—Doesn't the government pay their passage?

Mr. Oliver—I want to say to my hon. friend and to the House that this government does not pay the passage of anybody, and does not pay one dollar to assist the immigration of any class or condition. That is not its policy, and is not its administration.

Mr. Bergeron—Do we not pay $5 per head to agents, $5 per head to steamship companies and $2 per head to another agency, making altogether about $12 per head on immigrants coming to Canada?

Mr. Oliver—I am very glad my hon. friend has given me the opportunity of stating the case as it is, because I can easily see that if a large number of our people have the same idea as my hon. friend from Beauharnois, our immigration policy can scarcely be very popular in the country. I wish to repeat that the Department of Immigration does not, and, so far as I am aware, with the exception of these Doukhobors who have been mentioned, never has paid a part of the passage of any immigrant. The policy of assisted immigration is absolutely contrary to the immigration policy of this government. The policy and the practice of the government is to spend large amounts of money for publicity, to draw the favorable attention of desirable people to this country; but while it has spent and is spending, and I believe is prepared to spend, large sums of money for publicity, it has not, does not, and is not going to spend one cent for assistance. It spends money for publicity in sending agents to the countries from which we desire immigrants; it spends money for publicity in printing literature, in advertising in newspapers, and in paying a bonus to ticket grants to Canada rather than to the who come to Canada.

Mr. Bergeron—How much is paid?

Mr. Oliver—Five dollars per head on certain classes; but that is not in any way an assistance to the immigrant. It is a part of the campaign of publicity, and is an inducement to the booking agent to direct the immigrants to Canada rather thanto the United States.

Mr. Bergeron—Do we pay that $5 per head also on the immigrants who go to the United States?

Mr. Oliver—No. I wish to state the reason for paying that $5 per head to the booking agent. The steamship lines run from ports in Great Britain to ports in the United States. The booking agent, who holds an agency for the different steamship lines, gets his commission from the steamship company for every ticket he sells, whether it is to Canada or the United States or anywhere else. By Canada paying the booking agent a bonus on each immigrant that he sends, it must be evident that when an intending immigrant asks for a ticket to America, it is to the interest of the booking agent to sell him a ticket to Canada rather than one to the United States. It is on that principle that the money is paid, but it is paid only on certain classes of immigrants.

Mr. Uriah Wilson—Can the minister tell us on what percentage of those who come to Canada the bonus is paid?

Mr. Oliver—I cannot tell that offhand; but my hon. friend has a question on the order paper, which will come in due course on Monday next, the answer to which will give him the information; and when he gets that he will see that we pay a bonus on only a fraction of those who come. We are not in any way responsible for the coming of the classes which are absolutely unlike the classes we specifically advertise for. Our literature states very distinctly the only classes we want, the only classes we pay for or instruct any of our agents to induce to come to this country.

Mr. Uriah Wilson—Everybody seems to have known of this undesirable class coming to this country, except the government. If they had three or four years ago taken the steps which they are now taking, by passing an order in council not to allow any to come without the endorsement of an officer in England, we would probably have been saved a great deal of the present paupetism in this country.

Mr. Oliver—There is no doubt about that. The action we have taken objectionably might have been taken profitably some time before; but the necessity for doing it did not arise until recently. At the last session of this parliament the immigration department was criticised, and criticised very strongly, I do not say very ably, both by a gentleman sitting on this side and by several gentlemen sitting on the other side, because of the scarcity of help in Eastern Canada and because due measures were not taken to supply the demand then existing. While we might be aware that there were people coming whom we did not induce to come, yet so long as there was such a demand for labor as evidently did exist at that time, so long as there was room and opportunity for these people, it did not seem to us that it was our place to raise objections to them. But as soon as the conditions changed, and it became apparent that it was necessary to put a check upon this class of immigration, forthwith we proceeded to put checks upon it, and we believe that the results will be advantageous. Moreover, that is not the point at issue. The point at issue is this: Is this government responsible for the introduction of that class of people into this country at the present time? I say absolutely no, not in any shape or manner, by inference or by fact. At present, as the hon. gentleman has suggested, we are taking means absolutely to exclude them, not contrary to our previous policy, but carrying out our previous policy under changed conditions.

Mr. Bergeron—I understand my hon. friend to admit that $5 a head is paid to the booking agent for every immigrant of a desirable class that comes into this country. Now I want to put a question to my hon. friend. The other day, in an answer given in this House, it was stated that 25,000 or 30,000 of those immigrants went over to the States. Now I want to know what becomes of that $5 a head that the government paid on these 25,000 or 30,000.

Mr. Oliver—Well, we try to keep track of the immigrants for some time after their arrival, and when we find that any of them have passed over to the States, bonuses are not paid on those men. The bonus, of course, is not paid immediately on the arrival of the immigrant, not until some time afterwards; and if we find after the bonus has been paid that the immigrant had crossed the line, that amount is deducted from the next payment that we make to that booking agent. While it is impossible absolutely to guard against cases like that, I would like the hon. gentleman to understand that we are quite aware of this movement taking place, and we take every reasonable means of guarding against paying money on behalf of people who have passed over to the United States. That is one reason why we were not able to settle with the friends of our hon. friends, the North Atlantic Trading Company, as promptly as we would otherwise have done. We had to hold back their final payments for a year or so in order to check as well as we could payments on immigrants who had gone over to the United States.

Mr. Bergeron—Are their claims all settled?

Mr. Oliver—Yes.

Inspection.

Mr. Armstrong—Would the minister explain to us the system of inspection of immigrants after they land in Canada by which he may know whether they go into the United States or not?

Mr. Oliver—I could not give such an explanation as would fully satisfy the hon. gentleman. We have a very large number of immigration officers, and every one of them is employed from time to time in noting the movement of the immigrants. But what might be done in one case could not be done in another, and the same system does not prevail everywhere.

Mr. Armstrong—It is quite evident from what the minister says that no check is kept on these men, and that my hon. friend from Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) was right when he said that the $5 per head on these 25,000 who went over to the States is money lost to this country.

Mr. Oliver—I think my hon. friend's imagination is as vivid as that of his colleagues, when he speaks about the asylums and jails of Ontario being full of undesirable immigrants. But if that is the case it is the fault of the provincial authorities, because this government under the present law has deported several hundreds of such people from this province within the past few years, and will continue to do so.

Mr. Bergeron—Where do you send them to?

Mr. Oliver—To the country from which they came, and at the expense of the transportation company. Under our immigration law it costs us nothing, that is, if we can fix the responsibility upon the transportation company. Sometimes we cannot fix that responsibility and then we have to pay, but generally it is the transportation companies who take these people back at their own expense. If Ontario is suffering today in the way the hon. gentleman says, it is the fault of the provincial government and not of this administration. Now as to the method of inspection. When the ship lands, the immigrants are passed under close review before one or two medical officers. The inspection is, of course, a hurried one, and unless there is evidence of some diseased condition or some unfortunate mental condition, it is impossible in the hurry of that inspection to locate every case.

Mr. Uriah Wilson—I would like to ask the minister if he says that a personal inspection is made.

Mr. Oliver—Yes.

Mr. Uriah Wilson—If the minister will look at the report of his chief medical inspector he will see that sometimes they inspect them in batches of a thousand.

Mr. Oliver—I do not know what our chief medical inspector has said in a particular case, but I have seen the inspection myself. I took the place of an immigrant, went through the chute along with the rest, and I certainly passed in close review before the doctors. The system is the same at the Canadian port as it is at the United States port, and the United States people have the same system of inspection at Quebec as our people have at ports in the United States.

Mr. Bergeron—Is my hon. friend sure of that, because in the United States they take a longer time to examine them than we do?

Mr. Oliver—I quite admit that. They are perhaps more particular than we are, and they take a longer time to do it, but I do not think they arrive at a better result. I think we keep out as fair a proportion of undesirables as they do, and if they take a longer time to do this work it is simply because they have more red tape and officialism, whereas it is a matter of good judgment with us.

Mr. Bergeron—You cannot inspect a thousand immigrants in a few hours.

Mr. Oliver—Of course you cannot do it effectively, and I admit that there are undesirables to slip through. It is because it is absolutely impossible to prevent the admission of a certain number of undesirables that we have the deportation provision, under which we can pick them out and send them back. But, there is an inspection at every ocean port, every individual is inspected, and if there is evidence of physical deformity or of mental defect the immigrant is picked out at once, more thoroughly examined and either detained, deported or let go as the case may be. The same is done with the United States immigrants who land at Canadian ports. There land at Canadian ports a large number of immigrants destined for the United States, and these immigrants pass inspection by United States officers at Canadian ports just as if they were passing at a United States port, after which they go through to their destinations in the United States.

Mr. Bergeron—And they leave the bad ones here?

Mr. Oliver—They turn back any who are medically unfit, just as we turn back any who are medically unfit. If they let an unfit person pass they are inefficient. If we let an unfit person pass we are, to that extent, inefficient. I think that both sides do their duty and, generally speaking, do it very effectively, and the result is very good. If an immigrant is destined for a United States point and fails to pass the inspection of the United States medical officers he is not allowed to come into Canada. He is excluded at that point and never comes into Canada at all.

Mr. Armstrong—I would like to ask the minister what he intends to do, and if he is going to recoup the province of Ontario for having to pay for this undesirable class of immigrants.

Mr. Oliver—I think the question at issue between the hon. member and myself was as to the immigrants who are now inmates of gaols and asylums of Ontario and my hon. friend has not informed us as to any who are in either gaols or asylums.

Mr. Armstrong—We will have no trouble in doing that a little later.

Could Have Them Deported.

Mr. Oliver—So far my hon. friend has had the opportunity, he has had the book and he has failed to do so. Regarding the statement contained in the book which has been read that there is a campaign in European countries without regard to the quality of immigrants, I can only say that my hon. friend is not warranted in reading such a statement and that he would not be warranted in making it himself after the statement I have made. I do not think it is right or proper that a statement which was evidently written so maliciously or ignorantly should be placed before this House in the way in which my hon. friend has done it. I want to say further that if the city of Toronto is suffering from the presence of immigrants within its limits, as my hon. friend here suggests, the city of Toronto has just the same remedy in that regard as it had in the months of November and December in regard to certain other immigrants in Toronto who were deported at the order of the municipality. There was no limit placed by the Department of the Interior on the number of immigrants that the city of Toronto might see fit to deport. The only question was whether they were subject to deportation under the laws of Canada, and if they were any immigrant the city of Toronto wanted deported has been deported. If these people are there today to the injury of the city of Toronto, the city of Toronto is responsible and not this government.

JAPAN AND CHINA FRIENDLY.

Central Government Never Seriously Worried Over Tatsu Incident.

Tokio, March 27.—Foreign Minister Hayashi made a statement today in the Diet in reference to the Tatsu incident. He related the history of the case as has already been published and said that the report had not yet been received at the foreign office. He wished to say emphatically that the Chinese Central Government had shown a friendly attitude to Japan and a desire for the continuance of friendly relations by conceding an ample reparation.

Regarding the seizure of the Japanese fishing vessel, Kajio Maru, near St. Paul Islands by the United States government, Mr. Hayashi said that negotiations were pending and that it was premature to make an official statement.

In the matter of the Kantao boundary, the Minister of Foreign Affairs said that this was an old dispute between Korea and China and that it would probably involve lengthy negotiations. In fact the boundary had not yet been fixed.

Regarding the forcible seizure of the Tien Peshan mine, near Kantao by Chinese troops, Minister Hayashi said that this matter was included in the Kantao negotiations and that when the boundary was fixed the mine questions would be considered.

Regarding anti-Japanese feeling by the Central Government of China, he said he was unable to discover the slightest evidence of unfriendliness. China is a vast country with millions of people, of whom a portion was probably anti-Japanese, but that it is impossible to influence the entire population. It is beyond the scope of the Japanese foreign office to reach all sections of China, and it will take time to prove to universal satisfaction China's good intentions towards her neighbor.

The Diet will be prorogued tonight to meet in December, after the general elections, which commence in May.

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