

SPEECH

(IN PART)

DELIVERED BY MR. R. L. BORDEN

AT VANCOUVER, 24th SEPTEMBER, 1907.

The Question of Immigration, a burning one all over Canada, and especially in British Columbia, Mr. Borden left for his closing remarks. He said:—

The important question of immigration is of special moment to the people of this Province under existing conditions. At Halifax I announced as part of our general policy:

IMMIGRATION. CAREFUL SELECTION.
ABOLITION OF BONUS SYSTEM.

A more careful selection of the sources from which immigration shall be sought, a more rigid inspection of immigrants and the abolition of the bonus system except under very special circumstances and for the purpose of obtaining particularly desirable classes of settlers.

NATIONAL SPIRIT AND ASSIMILATION.

We must guard against any supposed divergence of interest and what is still more important any actual divergence of sentiment between the East and the West. Our conditions are more difficult than those of the United States because north of Lake Superior many hundred miles of almost uninhabited country will remain, for years to come, not as a link but a gap between the social and national life of the East and that of the West. So our widespread communities must be kept in touch, alien settlers must be assimilated and made acquainted with our institutions, a national spirit must be created and maintained.