

any further than those of British stock were concerned, but I am not so sure it is even a good policy to have with regard to those of British origin, in the newer districts. I would have no objection to it in the eastern provinces, where the settlement is practically complete, but in the newer districts I have seen, those in the west, these settlers have come in and settled in a group, made up of a community of their own. These communities have not been successful, and have not made as much of a success, I am satisfied, as would have been made if these men had been scattered among the residents who had gone through the pioneering experiences, and who had adopted the methods necessary for a new country. These immigrants were British in spirit, but they carried their old-country methods and customs with them, and because they were in a group of their own they did not come in contact with others. For that reason, it was very much more difficult for them to make a success of it. When it comes to these others, other than British stock, there are a great many problems which enter in, and I would offer a protest against the Canadian National adding to our western problems, by way of adopting the group settlement of immigrants.

SIR HENRY THORNTON: There is a certain amount of difference of opinion about that. Of course, as far as the railway is concerned, we do not care a rap whether it is group settlement or individual settlement, or any other kind, so long as that is the most satisfactory to the Dominion and the people of the Dominion as a whole. Whether you are speaking in favour of group settlement or individual settlement, the objective is that thing which is best for the Dominion and which promotes contentment among the immigrants. We are not going to get that. I am glad you mentioned this, because I would very much like to have the views of yourself and others, perhaps, from the west.

Mr. HARRIS: Might it simplify it a little if I ask this question? Is it not a fact that you will trim your sails according to the government policy?

SIR HENRY THORNTON: No.

Mr. HARRIS: I understood that was your European policy, and it may be the same here.

SIR HENRY THORNTON: Possibly I answered your question hastily, and did not quite catch your meaning.

Mr. HARRIS: If it is the government policy in the discussion of immigration not to increase the group settlement, you would trim your sails accordingly?

The CHAIRMAN: Perhaps that is an unfortunate way of putting it, "trim your sails".

Mr. HARRIS: I thought it was very good.

SIR HENRY THORNTON: I suppose Mr. Harris is speaking of the government, irrespective of what party might be in power. That is, you are simply speaking of the government as the government of the country, I take it?

Mr. HARRIS: I will put it this way. If you felt that public opinion was that you should not settle these people in groups, you would lay out your organization accordingly; you would not go contrary to public opinion?

SIR HENRY THORNTON: I think if there were a pronounced opposition on the part of the people of Canada to group settlement, we of course could not proceed along the lines of group settlement. It would be ridiculous to do so, because after all the people of Canada, through their representatives in Parliament, and the government, are the shareholders of the railroad and if on any question of policy such as that there was a decided feeling that there should be no group settlement, I think we would do ourselves and the country more harm than good by trying to enforce it. We must certainly be guided by public opinion in a great many things. Have I answered your question?