

people from Scandinavia, Russia, or Germany are not a splendid race of people, a people animated by high national traditions, and a people actuated by a deep sense of civilization.

I am not claiming that we are the best people in the world; that our civilization is the highest form of civilization; but I do claim that our present civilization suits us, and it is that which we have set ourselves to improve. Our social system, our political system, our religious system, are those which we have inherited and under which we are trying to improve ourselves.

Possibly a Chinaman is a better man than an Englishman, let the Englishman answer for that himself; a Japanese may be a better man or a Russian may be a better man than the Englishman; I say nothing about that, he may be a much better man, but he is not one of us, and inasmuch as he is not one of us he is not helping us to develop along those lines that Providence has chosen for us, or that we have chosen for ourselves. His presence is a hindrance and not a help.

Sir, this is the language of a Little Canadian, known heretofore as Mr. Oliver, member of parliament for Alberta. Circumstances have changed, but I am afraid the only circumstance that has brought the hon. gentleman (Mr. Oliver) to abandon this patriotic policy which he calls now a Little Canadian policy, is the circumstance that now he is a member of the cabinet and then he was a free member of parliament.

Let me say further that it appears to me to have been a mistake in the past to have spent so much money as we have in paying bounties to steamship companies for the conveyance of immigrants, and for this reason: we made the steamship companies, by that means, our immigration agencies, and it did not make any difference to the steamship companies what the character of the immigrant was, who he was, or where he was from, so long as they got the bonus.

Does not that argument apply to the booking agents as well as to the steamship companies? Certainly it does, unless the Minister of the Interior can prove that every Hamburg Jew he selects as an agent is so patriotic, that when an undesirable immigrant comes to his office he will say: I cannot send you to Canada; I am too patriotic a Canadian to do that; I will lose by \$2.50 commission on you, rather than send you to that country. Unless the Minister of the Interior can give such a certificate of character to every Hamburg Jew or Liverpool Jew that he appoints as an immigration agent, the remarks of the member for Alberta on the 29th of April, 1902, which I have just quoted are just as true to-day as they were five years ago. Let me quote further what the Minister of the Interior said when he was member for Alberta:

It seems to me, from my point of view, that this is a most undesirable system and a most

undesirable expenditure, and I would ask that it be not continued.

These are the words of the member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver) speaking of the immigration policy of the government, and if I have any reproach to make to my good friend from Montmagny (Mr. Armand Lavergne), it is that he has taken the words of his motion from the very language uttered in this House by the member for Alberta. The former part of my hon. friend's motion was taken from a speech made by the member for Alberta one year later than the speech I have referred to, and the circumstances which existed then exist to-day, the only change being that the member for Alberta is now the Minister of the Interior. On the 14th of July, 1903, the hon. member (Mr. Oliver) said:

Something has been said, I understand, about the paying of bounties or commission to induce immigration. To my mind, if ever there was need for that system, that need has passed.

It was not a question with him then, as to discrimination or selection, but in his opinion the whole system was bad, and he condemned it without qualification.

The payment of bounties and commissions—

And here again, Mr. Speaker, if you do me the favour to follow the wording of the motion, you will find that my hon. friend from Montmagny has made a faithful copy of the language of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Oliver):

The payment of bounties and commissions has a tendency to bring the less desirable rather than the more desirable class of people.

Well, Mr. Speaker, that is still my opinion; and at the expense of being denounced as a racial zealot, or a Little Canadian, I still hold the patriotic view which the member for Alberta held before he became Minister of the Interior.

But that is not all. A Bill was introduced providing for the better inspection of immigrants in the matter of their health, and the hon. member (Mr. Oliver) supported the Bill, but he warned the House that sanitary precautions were a small consideration compared with the great national principle at stake. He said:

From my standpoint, the diseases existing among immigrants are but a trifling consideration in comparison with the general character of the immigrant. I cannot understand the frame of mind which looks carelessly upon the introduction into the very life of our country, of a population without regard to whether such population will raise or lower the general standard of our people. It does not need any demonstration on my part, that if the increase of population which will necessarily take place in the development of these resources is of a character and constitution essentially different from our own, not only will they build up a different civilization wherever they establish themselves, but they will invariably control our civilization in this part of the country.