

Another idea is that the North-west is so great that it does not matter either, for it will be all right in the end. Now the North-west is a great country; it is a large country; but it is not a country without limits or without limitations. That country gives great opportunities for the exercise of intelligence, energy and enterprise; but it does not provide intelligence, or energy, or enterprise. It gives an opportunity for the people who have these qualities, but if the people who have not these qualities fill up that country, then we have such a country as that from which they came. But, the North-west, as I said, has its limitations and its limits. It is not so large a country but that it can be filled up. We have not before us the prospect of continuously, and everlastingly, and for ever, pouring people into the North-west. It can be filled up, it will be filled up within a moderate period of time. And I say the responsibility rests upon this House and upon the government, upon any government that may be in power, to see that the people who fill up that North-west, who ultimately will dominate the affairs of this country, are of such a character as shall not lower the aspirations that we have or lessen the efforts we are putting forth for the improvement and advancement of this great Canada of ours. We spend hundreds of thousands, we spend millions year after year for the purpose of elevating the material, mental, social and political condition of our people; and is it to be said that from year to year, while we make this effort with one hand, we should, with the other hand, bring in a class of people who individually or collectively will doubly or trebly increase the task that is set us. Let me inform the House that there are already in the North-west some very serious social and political questions arising from this indiscriminate immigration, which, if they continue to increase will do to this country, in the west and in the east incalculable harm.

Now, as to the possibilities. Mention has been made of a certain class of immigrants who have come, and objection has been raised particularly to that class; and I believe the government is being held up to condemnation because of their efforts in bringing in that class of people. There is a mistake, I believe, in that regard, and many of those who are interested in the subject of immigration make that mistake. The government is not bringing in that class of people. It is not putting forth any effort to bring that class. These people are coming in because of the pressure behind and not because of the efforts put forward to draw them. And therein lies our greatest danger. It is because the conditions in the country in which they live are unfavourable, it is because there is continually pressure behind them, the pressure of political sentiment, the pressure of landlordism, the pressure of race and religion, that they are being driven out of that coun-

try into this. And we stand at the mercy of these people in their thousands, in their hundreds of thousands, and in their millions at no distant day. This, Mr. Speaker, is not a fancy picture, it is not a dream; it is a matter of fact. If my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Roche) speaks as an expert as regard to the appearance of these people, I take the liberty of saying that I speak as an expert in regard to the conditions that prevail in the country from which they come, having received the information from their own lips. There are millions of these people who live under conditions which tend to drive them out of their own country. They certainly find the conditions favourable here, and they are coming in in increasing numbers every year, without government assistance or government aid. This is the danger in which we stand, and this is the future of the immigration question which the House should be well aware of and should be prepared to deal with as I believe it will have to be dealt with.

As to the immigration that is coming from the United States, as I said in the beginning, this is the largest immigration we are getting, and is certainly the most desirable foreign immigration we are getting. The only immigration that could be more desirable would be that from the British islands. I do not speak of the movement of our own people to the North-west, for that is the most desirable of all, and that, I am glad to say, is a movement that is increasing from year to year. It is a pity that it had not started sooner, but thank God it has started at last, and we are getting our own people to settle in our own country. Canada has been the greatest emigration country in the world. We have sent more of our own people into foreign lands within the last thirty years in proportion to our total population, than any other country on earth, not barring Ireland. The fact is we have sent so many of our people into the United States within the last thirty years that of this tremendous immigration that is coming from the States, a very large proportion are our own people coming back, or their descendants. This fact shows to what a tremendous extent our people have gone to the States in previous years. Now I say these people are desirable, take them in the mass, desirable in every way. They are people of intelligence, of energy, of enterprise, of the highest aspiration. They speak the same language, they worship in the same churches, they have the same political ideals, although they have been enjoying different political institutions. Moreover, these people are the strongest objectors to the idea of indiscriminate immigration. They say they have suffered from that in the United States, and they will hold up both hands against such a policy in this country. We, in the west, believe in a vigorous immigration policy, but we do not believe in a policy