

agree with most of the arguments that have been advanced in support of it. I believe that the splendid opportunities which Canada affords to the people of all countries, the magnificent fertile land in the west, the opportunities in Quebec, in Ontario and in the maritime provinces, should attract to Canada the very best elements of the most desirable emigrating races in the world, I do not think there is a doubt about that. I think that any resolution which is proposed on this subject should declare that our immigration propaganda should not be carried on in any country whose law it contravenes. I think the efforts of the government should be especially directed toward securing immigration of the highest quality available and that the indiscriminate payment of bonuses on unselected immigrants has a tendency to bring the less desirable, rather than the more desirable class of people, and should not be continued. In a word, I would be inclined to restrict our efforts so far as the system of bonusing is concerned to the people of the British Isles. If the motion of my hon. friend from Montmagny (Mr. A. Lavergne) had not been so comprehensive, had been restricted to the lines I have suggested now, I would have been very glad indeed to support it, but in the unqualified and comprehensive terms in which it is brought forward, I do not think I can in justice to the convictions I hold on this question, support it.

Mr. A. LAVERGNE. Might I offer a word of explanation? When we drafted the motion we expected that the government would support us, that is why we put it in that form.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I think the belief of my hon. friend was a very natural one considering the sources from which he derived his inspiration.

Mr. F. D. MONK (Jacques Cartier). In order to accommodate the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Brodeur) I paired with him before he left this chamber, but I would not like to see this occasion pass without at least expressing my opinion on this very important motion. My hon. friend the Postmaster General (Mr. Lemieux) took up a good deal of the time of the House this afternoon in developing the idea that this motion was intended to shut out from Canada desirable settlers who might wish to settle within the limits of this country, and he held up to scorn the idea that we, of all nations of the world, having such a splendid domain and such a fine class of population should, contrary to the comity of nations, close this country to desirable settlers. It is not at all in that sense that I understand the motion is presented. We are anxious to observe the rules that govern nations among themselves, we are desirous of seeing immigrants come to this country, but we should lay it down

as a rule that we will not admit to our family, we will not take in among those who are contented with us to build up this great country undesirable settlers. We will not pay so much a head to people we do not know in order to increase the flow of immigration to this country. For my own part, I have not, since I have had the honour of a seat in this House, taken any other position than this, that the time has arrived for us in our present state of development to discontinue that system of bonusing immigrants and to have recourse to some other means of procuring immigration if in any way the flow which at present is coming into this country should show any signs of diminution. The question to my mind is: Is the system a good one? Is it bad in principle? If it is a bad system in principle, we should abolish it entirely, and I will say for my own part that I consider immigrants from the British Isles, the English yeoman, the Scotch farmer, the Irish peasant as the most desirable immigrants for this country. But if the system is a bad one, why should we continue to apply it even to the countries from which we expect a most advantageous flow of settlement into Canada?

At the same time we should limit ourselves at present to making known the advantages of this country as a place of residence, establishing offices in all countries where we may expect to find immigrants, making known to the world what immense natural facilities this country affords and the great advantages open to people who desire to settle, not only on the great plains of the west, but in all the different provinces of Canada. But the idea of saying to a person, whom in most cases we do not know, as in the case of the North Atlantic Trading Company, which has brought most forcibly before this House and the country the defect of that system, the idea of saying: We will pay you so much per head for every person that you send to this country, and who will be able to pass the cursory examination he will have to submit to at the port of entry—I say that system is a bad system, that it has been productive of bad results, and that it is time, in the interest of the welfare of this country, that we should adopt a more proper and more advantageous system of immigration. Now, my hon. friend the leader of the opposition has quoted from speeches made at different times by the Minister of the Interior, and it is a very singular thing that this afternoon we have had from two ministers of the Crown practically a repudiation of the views which, before they entered the sacred precincts of the cabinet, they held and were not afraid to express publicly on many occasions.

Mr. OLIVER. Does the hon. gentleman mean to indicate that I have intentionally