

the Polish Jews, the Prussians, the Galicians and the Doukhobors, who are looking for the Lord in the plains of the Northwest, or who are in jail at Regina, because they will not work. These are the immigrants which have been favoured by this government. On the other hand, we have as our agents in France Mr. Wiillard, a very able man, but he cannot do the work alone; and Mr. Foursin-Escande, who walks about on two crutches, and would be a fit subject for the Canadian Senate. I protest against the conspiracy against French immigration which is carried on in the Interior Department. To prove that, I will give the opinion of a man who was once in the Department of the Interior as deputy minister, and who is termed in the newspaper from which I quote the 'Hon. Mr. Smart':

The 'Northern Express,' Liverpool, February 10, 1902—British blood is needed.

The Hon. J. A. Smart, Deputy Minister of the Interior of Canada, and Mr. W. T. R. Preston, immigration agent general for the Dominion, arrived in Liverpool to-day from London and Glasgow to arrange a gigantic system of British emigration to Canada.

More British blood is also needed to be infused if the views of the Dominion of Canada is not to be Frenchified by the rapid growth of the French population.

That citation, I think, is a true opinion of the policy which has been carried on in the Interior Department, at all events until very recent years. The motto of the Immigration Department seems to have been: The Doukhobors rather than the French. We have other facts which show the policy of the Interior Department towards immigration. We have in Belgium a most favourable field for immigration, and Belgian immigrants would favourably compare with any immigrants which come from the British Isles. I may also say that the Belgian government favours emigration to Canada. We had some time ago an exposition in Belgium, and the Canadian government was represented there by Mr. Hutchison, who could not speak a word of French, although the French language, together with the Flemish, is the language of the people of Belgium. Some pamphlets were sent by the Quebec government to the Canadian exhibit, and, on the order of Mr. Hutchinson, the Canadian representative, they were stowed away in the cellar of the Canadian pavilion, and strict injunctions given that not one of them should be distributed. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, if such an unjust act can be defended in this House or before the country? I may be again met with the old argument that the French people do not emigrate; at all events, that is the argument which we hear from the government in the province of Quebec. We are told that the Frenchman is happy in his own country, that he loves old France, that he does not want to expatriate himself.

Mr. A. LAVERGNE.

But this statement is exaggerated. The French statistics for the year 1905-6 show that in that year 92,000 Frenchmen emigrated; that from Belgium 43,000 emigrated; that there are 52,000 French people in the Argentine Republic, and that in France there are 400,000 unemployed. I am not as narrow minded as some members who have interrupted me, and I will say that we do not want in Canada the scum of the French population and the scum of the unemployed. But these 400,000 idle people in France prove that there is an economic disturbance in that country, that the people are seeking for work, and that they would be willing to come to Canada if a wise propaganda were carried on amongst them. The statistics also show that in France, to 1891, 6,235,000 people migrated to Paris, or from one department to another, which shows a great displacement of population and unrest, and a field for immigration propaganda by Canada. Even so late as 1902, the present Minister of the Interior stated that the British people would not emigrate to this country. But an active and wise propaganda was carried on in the British Isles, with the result that while in 1900 only 4,129 emigrants came to Canada, in 1901 there were 9,401; in 1902 there were 13,000; in 1903, 41,000; in 1904, 50,300, and the number is steadily increasing. This shows that the Minister of the Interior was wrong, and that by the adoption of proper methods the British people have come to Canada, and we are now relying on them to counterbalance the foreign population dumped on us by the booking agents and the North Atlantic Trading Company. I could also give figures to show that the French emigrant has cost less to this country than the British emigrant, and I only mention this to show that if the Department of the Interior were not so savagely opposed to it, it would be easy to bring French emigrants to this country. There is another reason in favour of French immigration, which I cite for the benefit of my friends from the west, and that is that French emigration is a national necessity. The French Canadian people are great assimilators, one strong proof of which is that in the county of Charlevoix they have assimilated a whole Scotch regiment, and every one knows that none are more tenacious of their nationality than are the Scotch people. Now, I contend that the French Canadian people are the natural guardians of the idea of Canadian nationality. We French Canadians have no other country but Canada, while the English Canadian has not yet quite come to know whether his country is the old land or whether it is Canada. My hon. friend from Victoria (Mr. Sam. Hughes) says he is an Englishman before being a Canadian.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. No, he didn't.