

all along the international boundary line from here to Vancouver, and they reject people that are passing from Canada to the United States for one reason or another, therefore we are to conclude that these are immigrants that were let in at the ocean ports by defective inspection on the part of our officers. Sir, I happen to know, as a matter of fact, that the inspector at Sault Ste. Marie would stop a man if he had a sore finger as soon as he appeared at the boundary line. There is no evidence whatever that these people are immigrants. It is known to be the policy at the present time of the Interior Department of the United States, for the purpose of carrying out the views of certain labour organizations in that country, as far as possible to discourage the movement of people into the United States. But what happens in connection with these officers? After these officers are appointed, you may be certain that when they make their reports they endeavour at least to make it appear that they have been doing something. They do not put in a report that would indicate that there has been nothing for them to do during the twelve months previous; and the result is, as every person knows who is familiar with what goes on wherever these officers are stationed, that people going from Canada are stopped on the most frivolous and ridiculous pretexts, they are stopped often times on the pretext that they have some disease. We do not propose to follow that policy, we do not propose to be dictated to in that respect by officers of the United States; we do not propose that they shall decide for us who are proper people and who are not to come into Canada. We think we can get officers who are just as competent as they are, and we do not feel that our inspection ought to be checked by the results of the inspections that are made by officers who may or may not be competent for the purpose. Let me further point out the system of inspection that is followed, and that was pointed out by the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Roche). When a vessel enters the port the immigrants are examined by the port physician for all infectious diseases, then the physician of the Department of the Interior has instructions to make his examination, and when the immigrants land they are examined again. It is practically impossible that there should be any considerable number of people who would pass free of such inspection, for the simple reason that under our system, when people are landed from the ship, it is known where each group is going; they are taken in charge by officers of the department, and it is known practically where every man goes and what he does. So it is practically impossible, under our system, for any considerable number of people to stray away and avoid the inspection of our officers, and, as has been suggested, endeavour to get

over the line under the pretext of having been destined for Canadian points.

I want to say a word or two in regard to the general plan of the work which we follow. A word or two will perhaps make more clear than a mere statement from myself respecting the results of the work, the fact that there is in reality a weeding out and selecting going on under our system of procuring immigrants, which is of the most effective character. In the United States and in England the system under which our advertising is carried on results in inquiries being made of our officers, and when these inquiries are made, either personally or by letter, the persons are advised to come to Canada or they are advised not to come, according to the view of the agent as to whether or not the person making the inquiry is a person who is suitable or a person likely to succeed. If, in the opinion of the agent, the person making the inquiry is not likely to succeed, he is advised not to come, and the result is that right at the primary point of our immigration system these inquiries are made, and that is the very best possible process of selection you could have. In regard to continental immigration, the work is carried on largely under the direction of the North Atlantic Trading Company, who are under contract with this government, who are a responsible company and who know perfectly well that if they send undesirable people they are liable to be sent back, and the expense of sending them back is charged to them.

Mr. MONK. How much per head does the North American Trading Company receive?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Five dollars for an adult and \$3 for what is called a half ticket, or a ticket that is purchased for a person who is not an adult. This North Atlantic Trading Company is a responsible company under contract with the government. Our arrangement was made with them because of the fact that for several years the department had been in the habit of paying a bonus to steamship companies for this work on the continent of Europe. That policy was found unsatisfactory. It was found that we had no proper check on the class of people sent and we had no responsible body whose interest it would be to winnow out the persons who were undesirable and forward only the class of persons that we desired to get. After a good deal of discussion and consideration a contract was finally made with this company and the result is that during the last three years the work on the continent has been carried on under its supervision. The company does not make any special effort to stimulate immigration from the southern part of Europe but the most of its work is in the Scandinavian countries and of northern Europe. Although there is a cer-

Hon. Mr. SIFTON.