

of Minister of the Interior. They were compelled to appoint him, because they knew that they could not carry a riding from Winnipeg to the coast with the exception of that one riding, which is largely made up of Doukhobors, Galicians, Italians and other foreign elements. I noticed the other day that the editor of a newspaper remarked that it was a long way down from the member for Brandon to the member for Edmonton. But the government did not have to go so far as that. They could have stopped about half way and taken the member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Scott), who was elected by 800 majority at the last general election; but they were afraid to do it, because they knew that if that gentleman went back for re-election he would be defeated, and the member for Edmonton was appointed because he was the only man who could be elected in that country. I have here the 'Weekly Sun,' which is recognized throughout this country as being an independent farmers' journal, and what it says has a great deal of weight with the farming community, and here is what that paper says on this question:

There could scarcely be anything more transparent in the way of sharp practice than the mock appeal of the government to the sentiment of the Northwest by the opening of the constituency of Edmonton. Edmonton is chosen manifestly because the really Canadian element there will be swamped by elements essentially still foreign and completely in the hands of the government officials. This, by the way, is a hint in favour of a more cautious policy of immigration. We want not only settlers, but good settlers, and not only good settlers, but settlers who are readily convertible into good citizens.

On this point, I notice the Finance Minister, when speaking in this House on this Bill, told us the following as a reason why this Bill should be supported:

I have no doubt, from information that has reached me, that many immigrants have come into the Northwest Territories upon representations that the schools there would be conducted in accordance with their religious views, and I believed this to be correct. I may mention a little incident bearing on that point. I had occasion recently to come into official contact with the representative of one of the continental nations. I was discussing with him the question of immigration—we wished to have immigrants come to Canada from his country. In the course of our conversation he said: If you are to get immigrants from our country, this school question that is coming up becomes one of very great importance to us. I have no doubt therefore, that it can be shown that some of the immigrants who have come to the Northwest Territories have come—for we have many Roman Catholic settlers in that country—on the faith of representations that the schools were to be conducted in accordance with the views of the Roman Catholic minority.

This will be found on page 3127 of 'Hansard.' Now, I want to say to the Minister of Finance and to this government—because

we know that he has been sojourning in Italy lately, and that is probably the country he meant—that this country does not want that kind of immigration; they are not the kind of settlers the people of Canada desire. They want good German, Irish, English or French settlers, and not these foreign gentlemen the Finance Minister mentions; and if we are passing this Bill purely and simply for the purpose of attracting that class of immigrants to our shores, I think it one of the mistakes of the government of which future generations will have to reap the reward.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we had in this government a short time ago a strike. When workmen strike, they usually strike for some reason. I hardly know for what reason the Minister of Finance and the ex-Minister of the Interior went out on strike. It may have been that the Minister of Finance, knowing the financial resources of Canada, thought that grant of \$2,200,000 per annum to those provinces for all time to come was too great a drain upon the public exchequer. There are various reasons why men go out on strike. Sometimes it is for shorter hours; sometimes it is for larger pay; sometimes it is for offices of greater emolument. When there is a strike there is always a delegate appointed to reconcile the strikers, and I can imagine the right hon. the premier being the delegate that was sent in this instance to bring the strikers back to line. And I can imagine him saying to the Finance Minister: Now, my dear Finance Minister, you know I am getting a little advanced in years; I am a little more infirm than I used to be, my health is not so good, and the time may come in a very short while when I will retire from the premiership, and there is only one man in the Liberal party who is competent to fill my shoes and to take my job when I give it up, and that man is you; now, Mr. Finance Minister, if you will only be good and come back into line, stand up in the House and swallow your principles, it may be that you will be the white-headed boy of the future. I do not know what inducements were offered to the ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton). We know that he came back into line, but he would not go back to work. As they say in these strikes, he brought the gang back, but he would not take up his work where he had left off. It may have been that he could not see as much ahead of him as the Minister of Finance, or it may be that the office of High Commissioner was not so great an inducement, and that the damp air over there may not have been so conducive to his health. For those reasons, he simply came back into line, but he would not go to work. Whatever may have been the inducement that the right hon. gentleman held out to them the cats came back, and now they are a happy family—happy and united. It is only a little while ago that there was mutiny on board the ship, but now all is peaceful and quiet.