

ment come to a similar conclusion, we shall furnish parliament with every information in the usual way.

STRANDED IMMIGRANTS.

Mr. GEORGE H. PERLEY. Before the Orders of the Day are called I desire to direct the attention of the government to an unfortunate incident that occurred in connection with immigration and which is reported in the newspapers of Friday and Saturday last. Some 40 Austrian immigrants arrived here from Montreal on Thursday evening last by train, without money and without food. According to the newspaper reports, there were no fewer than 40 poorly clad and weary looking immigrants finding themselves homeless and without shelter. There were a few women among them, though they were mostly men. They found their way to the police station in Ottawa, as there was no place for them at the Canadian Pacific Railway station where they could remain, because the railway authorities do not allow people to loaf about their station, and they were directed to the police station. They came there on Thursday evening and asked to be kept over night. They reported to the police sergeant that they were penniless, they had no place to go and they wanted to remain over night. Consequently room was made for them at the police station. I am given to understand that food was procured for them by one of the citizens of Ottawa, almost wholly at his own expense, who provided meals for them. These poor people are reported as saying:

We will starve unless we get something to do. Our money is all gone and we have no more food. The women need clothing and we have experienced many hardships during the journey. Canada was pictured to us as a land of wealth and plenty, and we do not expect to be disappointed.

Fortunately they were not disappointed, because the next day, on Good Friday, the immigration agency found work for all these men and they were sent away from Ottawa to work on some railway construction. Now, I want to call the attention of the government to the fact that when these people arrived here without any means or food, if they had not been able to secure work at once they would have been a charge on this city for an indefinite period. These people were Austrians and they are said to have come here of their own volition. It seems to me that something ought to be done by the immigration office to prevent this sort of thing occurring, to see that people do not come here without money and with no means of procuring a livelihood. If the government are going to allow people of that class to come here they should provide for them at some seaport town where they can be looked after until they get work, and they should not be allowed to find their way into the interior

in a destitute condition. Our country is filling up now very rapidly and we are all proud of it. We have got a grand land, and we ought to see to it that the proper class of immigrants are brought into this country. I would suggest to the right hon. the Prime Minister, who I understand presides over the Immigration Department for the time being, to take some steps to see that cases of this kind do not occur again.

PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY IN THE NORTHWEST.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier for the second reading of Bill (No. 69) to establish and provide for the government of the province of Alberta, and the amendment of Mr. R. L. Borden thereto.

Mr. A. BRODER (Dundas). I have to thank the House for allowing my hon. friend from Queen's, Prince Edward Island (Mr. A. A. McLean) to move the adjournment of the debate on my behalf at the last sitting of the House. I need not repeat what has been so frequently stated that the measure before the House is a very important one. Some features of the Bill have elicited much wider discussion than others. The main object of the Bill, as I understand, is to give autonomy to two new provinces of this Dominion. That is a very important measure to the people dwelling in the new provinces. Connected with that Bill as a part of the autonomy proposed to be given them, there are certain clauses which have elicited more than usual criticism and which will no doubt cause a great deal more discussion in the future. I refer to the clause relating to separate schools. I need not say that I for one regret that it was found necessary by the leader of the government to interject that question into the political arena. The discussion on these Bills has largely centered around the school clauses of this Bill. Sir, that opens up a very wide field for discussion. This is not the first time that public men in this country have seen fit, and have been obliged in fact, to discuss similar issues. When confederation took place it was brought about by men who, having sharp differences of opinion on these questions, found it necessary, so far as possible, to get rid of these issues and banish them from the federal arena, and the public men who took part in that great work supposed that they were getting rid of these questions for the future by taking them out of the federal arena. The Confederation Act was accepted as a final settlement of that subject, and I consider it a great misfortune to this country that it has not remained so. We find that the people of the province of Quebec, who were largely interested in the minority rights, and properly so, believed that when they came into confederation they would have exclusive right to deal with these matters which were of an entirely local