

Ontario from the First Minister and from other members opposite two years ago when we were discussing a proposal to pledge the credit of this country to the extent of about \$150,000,000 for building a transcontinental railway. It was then described as a most wonderful country. We had not only quotations by the right hon. gentleman from the relations of the Jesuits of 250 years ago but also from reports of the government of Ontario showing what a magnificent country it was. Why the Minister of the Interior used to applaud these quotations himself most vociferously at that time, but he seems now to have lost every possible recollection of them. Let me cite to him, when he says that not a single settler has been planted in that country, what was then said. Perhaps I am not locating the clay belt in the right place, as I am not so familiar with it as he is; but I notice in the report by the officers of his own department the following:

This year has witnessed an unprecedented influx of settlers into the Rainy River valley.

Would that mean the clay belt?

Mr. OLIVER. If the hon. member does not know where it is he had better let out the job of discussing it.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I am trying to let it out to the hon. gentleman, but I am not getting much help. Could he inform me of the location of the clay belt? I understand it takes in this Rainy River valley.

During the past eighteen months the town of Rainy River has sprung into existence, with a population of 2,000. They have municipal organization.

Further on, referring to the settlement on the White Fish river, the report says:

The settlement is now fifteen miles long and seven miles wide, more than three hundred families and a population of 1,500. Three school houses have been erected and maintained, and three other districts are being laid off. One new church has been erected and there are four or five other places where church services are held. Three saw-mills have been put up, and last year the settlers sold 300,000 ties and eight hundred car loads of wood, which netted them about \$110,000. Good trunk line colonization roads have been constructed.

And so on for two or three pages. I think therefore that in justice to the clay belt which my hon. friend, for some reason or other, has seen fit to attack—without any provocation whatever, I am sure, for the clay belt has done nothing to provoke him—I should bring these facts to the notice of the House and free that much maligned country from the aspersions which that hon. gentleman has seen fit to pass upon it, with the sole object of obstructing this legislation.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. As I came in I just chanced to hear the Minister of the Interior saying that the class of settlers

brought into the Northwest were the best possible selection that could be made.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. This is not in order.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. I am just replying to the arguments advanced by the Minister of the Interior. If he was out of order, surely I can refute the illogical arguments advanced by him. The first minister should have exercised his prerogative and called his colleague to order. It is only a few years since the present Minister of the Interior made this very chamber ring with denunciations of the class of settlers the government were bringing into the region of East Edmonton. I refer to the Galicians. I could point out to him still further, as showing that discrimination against the people from the eastern part of Canada who settle in the Northwest, that the Doukhobors from Russia and the Galicians from Austria and the Polish part of Russia and the Roumanians are landed in the Northwest at less cost than a man can travel to that country from Ottawa. They are put there by government agents on lands selected for them, whereas a Canadian has to select land at his own expense and pay a higher rate of transportation than a Doukhobor or a Galician. There has been no encouragement whatever during the last few years given to the British race from eastern Canada or the British Isles compared with that given these people.

Mr. CRAWFORD. In connection with the remarks of the leader of the opposition who attempted to call down the Minister of the Interior, I took down the words of the hon. member for Brantford (Mr. Cockshutt), and I do not see that any construction can be placed upon them other than that given by the Minister of the Interior. The hon. member, in referring to the matter, said: Get right class of settlers; go slow and wait for settlement. These are the words he used in speaking of the immigration to this country. Well, I happened to go into some of the details in connection with the cost of bringing immigrants to this country, and the information I got from the Immigration Department was that the American settlers cost the country less per head than any others and that the British immigrants had more money spent on them than any other class. There was more spent on British immigration per head than any other class of people.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Does the hon. gentleman include the cost of Mr. Preston and other gentlemen flourishing and luxuriating in London? The British immigrants brought more money into this country per head than any other class, and they were robbed deliberately with the connivance of the government agents.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Order.