

friend seems to be unable to understand that the giving away of a part of the land can increase the value of the remainder. If he is not able to understand that then I am unable to explain it to him. The fact is that the giving away of the lands in the Northwest and the policy under which these lands have been given away during the last few years, have resulted in doubling and trebling the value of the lands still remaining in the hands of the government and the railway companies, and at the same time it has had the result of increasing by millions and millions of dollars the revenue of this Dominion and the trade of Canada. I am astonished beyond measure to hear the representative of a manufacturing constituency in the province of Ontario declare that he does not know that it makes any difference as to whether the west is settled or not. If there is one thing the manufacturers of eastern Canada depend on more than another, it is on the securing of settlers upon these prairies. It is that increase of settlement that has given them their increased business within the last few years, and it is to the further increase of that settlement they must look for still further increase of business. If the hon. member for Brantford (Mr. Cockshutt) does not know that, I am satisfied there is not another manufacturer in this great city who does not know it. As to the allegation that there is discrimination as between foreigners and native Canadians in the administration of the Northwest lands, I may say that I have not been administering the Department of the Interior very long, but I have lived in the Northwest for many years and so far as my knowledge goes there is no such discrimination. I say that the administration of the lands in the Northwest has been on a fair basis and that the settler is not asked who he is or where he comes from. The policy of the government is to secure settlers for the land, and if it should happen that this or the other difficulty is in the way, the men we make settlers of in the Northwest are men who go there to overcome difficulties and not to be overcome by them.

Mr. W. WRIGHT. Did the hon. gentleman say that they did not give grants to the Doukhobors and give facilities in that way, supplying cattle, horses and implements so as to give them a start in a manner which has not been done for men from Ontario?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Nothing of the kind.

Mr. OLIVER. There do not happen to be any Doukhobors in my own part of the country and personally I am not aware of all the facts of the case, but I am aware of this fact, that in cases where there has been a general scarcity resulting from frost or grasshoppers it has been the practice to

assist the settlers regardless of nationality in the procuring of seed grain. I believe that policy has been pursued by different governments, and so far as I know there has been no disagreement in regard to it. I think it as well to say right here and now that the slur which I believe is very frequently cast that there is discrimination in the lands of the Northwest as against Canadians has no foundation in fact, none whatever, and that the aim in the administration of that department has been as I hope it will always be to secure the best men that can be got for the settlement of the country. I would be delighted as the administrator of the department if the hon. member for Brantford (Mr. Cockshutt) would secure us a few shiploads of settlers of the same character as those who landed on Plymouth Rock. I will be glad to guarantee him and them the best facilities the country affords. We want a lot of settlers of that kind and if he can direct us to any port where they can be secured, we will use every effort to bring them to Canada and to establish them in the west.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. But the hon. gentleman is settling them on the rock of the constitution.

Mr. OLIVER. We will settle them on the black lands of the Saskatchewan.

Mr. COCKSHUTT. I wish to correct an impression which the hon. minister conveyed which is not warranted by anything I said, that is, that I stood for slow growth. That was not my remark; I said there are other considerations besides rapidity of growth, and I said that quality as well as quantity is one of those considerations. The hon. member had no right to say that I stood for stagnation. He thinks I am standing in the way of my own business. I am sorry he thinks that, but at the same time, he will see that I am looking after the interests of the country and not of my own business when I make that proposition. I think this is a consideration that will appeal to all the provinces, that quality is a great consideration, and that in giving lands in the west they should be given only to people who are likely to make a sound foundation for a great nation. That is a sound doctrine; I do not retire from it. I do not think the hon. gentleman was warranted in fastening that implication upon me.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I regret that the new Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) seems so anxious to obstruct the progress of this Bill. Just as we were about to pass this section when no one was ready to take his feet for the purpose of saying anything further about it, the minister, who I suppose is in charge of the Bill, found it necessary to rise, and to keep us here an hour or an hour and a half longer in the discussion he has opened up on the clay belt in