

are in the position that has been described. The minister should be sufficiently familiar with western conditions to know that immigrants cannot be brought into this country and left there without any further attention unless they have a considerable sum of money—that is, if they hope to make good. I would ask him how it is that the Western Canada Colonization Association, which this government is backing, are not taking charge of these men and seeing that they are properly located. As I understand it, that is a duty they are supposed to fulfil under the contract they have entered into with the government.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The hon. member has asked me a question and I would like to answer it. No such undertaking is in the contract. The Western Canada Colonization Association wish to bring in immigrants and settle them on the land. They are inducing them to come to this country. These people came to Canada upon the understanding that the services of the Soldier Settlement Board would be placed at their disposal. If I might be permitted to say so, Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but think there is an attempt being made to try to blacken this immigration scheme because of the fact that some had advertising or so-called bad advertising of the Canada Colonization has been promulgated in this House and this particular immigration is being tied up with it. Let me say to my hon. friend that the Canada Colonization has nothing to do with this. I want to reiterate that; I have said it before. If there was any connection at all, it was the pamphlets that my hon. friend speaks about. I have no knowledge of them. These men may have seen these pamphlets in Scotland, but never at any time was there any connection between this party and the Canada Colonization.

Mr. KELLNER: Possibly I did not understand the Minister of Immigration correctly. If they had no association with this enterprise, far be it from me to try and attach any responsibility to them. However, I think the minister will admit this, that if we are going to have agents in Europe encouraging people to come to Canada, most assuredly we must have agents in western Canada to look after them when they get here. I cannot see how there is any prospect of them making good and I think the minister himself is well enough acquainted with conditions in that part of the country to know that there is no prospect of them making good unless there is someone there to encourage them and assist in their settlement when they arrive.

[Mr. Kellner.]

Mr STEWART (Argenteuil): Would the hon. member suggest any better agency than the agency which was placed at their disposal, the trained field men of the Soldier Settlement Board?

Mr. KELLNER: I would like to inform the minister that any agency which is not satisfactory could hardly be said to be a very efficient one.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Does the hon. member make the statement that they are unsatisfactory?

Mr. KELLNER: Most assuredly, if we are to believe these reports, that is the only conclusion we can arrive at. I think the minister himself said that he had information that the conditions were not satisfactory.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I must contradict this. I do not want to interrupt, but I cannot sit still and allow such a statement to be made. If any hon. gentleman got that impression from my remarks I must take occasion to correct him. What I said was that some of the members of this party were not satisfied, and I thought that was to be expected, but I did not say that I knew of widespread dissatisfaction.

Mr. KELLNER: The only difference between the minister and myself is that the minister assumed that I said that one hundred per cent of them were dissatisfied, and he admits that his information is that some of them probably are not satisfied.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I will go further than that and say that I have definite information that 5 out of 416 are not satisfied. Is that good enough?

Mr. KELLNER: The whole situation as I see it is not one for us to get into an argument over here in this House. If the minister claims that conditions are as good as we can reasonably expect, then for my part I am willing to accept that. But if these people need some special attention, I believe it is well that we should discuss it in the House, and that the government should accept the responsibility and see if they cannot relieve the situation. I have no desire in any way to criticize the minister unfairly or to get him in wrong, if I may use the expression, in the portion of the country from which he comes, but if an unsatisfactory condition does exist I think he should be anxious to lend his assistance and that of the department in an endeavour to remedy it.

I was about to say when I was last interrupted, that if we are going to have agents in Europe to encourage people to come here, in my hum-