

With these words the representative of the sovereign meets this parliament. I will ask any hon. gentleman here if he will go to any business man or thoughtful Canadian in his constituency and read those words to him and say, "That is a fair reflection of Canadian public opinion." Is there any Canadian who regards this problem as being adequately dealt with by the present system? We have here one of the largest undeveloped areas in the world; we have a very pressing necessity for more people. There need be no misapprehension about that, notwithstanding what has been said from time to time to the contrary. It will be found that the increase of population in this country, brought about through bringing additional people in, will not only lessen unemployment for those who are now in it, but will increase all employment. Those who have studied the problems connected with the movement of people realize that instead of there being a diminution of opportunities for labour, the flow of new peoples into a country means the increasing of the opportunities for those who are there as well as providing work to those who may come.

Last year the government tried the experiment of bringing into this country during the harvest season a number of people from Great Britain. Some of our friends were greatly agitated about that; some of them thought it was going to be fraught with the greatest danger. I observe from the returns, which the department very kindly and courteously furnish me from month to month, that credit is taken for the whole of the movement of these people into Canada at that time. But I learn that more than half of these people went back to Great Britain, and there is no record of that in the immigration returns of this country. In other words, these returns, as they now stand, indicate that there came into this country some fifty thousand British people up to the end of December. Mr. Amery, speaking in the House of Commons on the 19th December last, said that 8,449 British miner emigrants were sent to Canada and up to that date 6,876 had returned, and 4,577 had been assisted to return. We retained something like 1,573 of the number that came in, and no statement to that effect appears in the immigration returns sent out by the department from month to month. I inquired personally as to this being so.

This experiment having been made, may I direct attention to an article appearing in *The Round Table* of December, 1928, at page 180, as follows:

Indeed, the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, when it held its annual conference in [Mr. Bennett.]

Toronto in September, roundly denounced the experiment, and for its appeasement, Mr. Peter Heenan, Minister of Labour in the King cabinet, apparently regardless of the doctrine of collective ministerial responsibility, virtually repudiated the scheme as the product of other minds than his own, and made the charge that before the miners left Britain, they had been misled by gross misrepresentations to the effect that they could easily find employment in the Canadian coalfields, where, according to Mr. Heenan, a surplus of labour already existed.

Many of us will recall the language of the Ottawa Citizen in dealing with the same incident of the Minister of Labour's speech. This is our comment with respect to that. This scheme apparently was ill-conceived, improperly considered before it was launched, and when launched was not a success. The result is that of those who came to this country on account of the representations that were made to them, all but 1,573 had gone back before the 19th day of December last, and of those remaining 1,573 we do not now know how many have gone back since, but we do know that of those who went back 4,577 were assisted in their passage across the Atlantic ocean. In face of that we are told that the stream of immigration moves smoothly; that it is being satisfactorily maintained. In the language of the speech from the throne, bringing some 8,000 to Canada, sending back 6,800 of them and helping 4,577 of those 6,800 to return home, is satisfactorily maintaining the stream of immigration. I do not think the Canadian people look upon the matter in that way. I put this to the Prime Minister and to the members of this house: Has this government grappled with this problem at all? Has it not endeavoured piecemeal to appease this interest and that? Has it not endeavoured by a concession here and firmness there to appease all classes and accomplish nothing?

I observe that the Minister of Immigration (Mr. Forke) the other day spoke of the curtailment of continental immigration, reducing it by one-third, saying that the railways were bringing too many people from continental Europe into this country and that it was desirable to welcome British settlers. Could anything be simpler to increase the percentage of British settlers than to cut down the percentage of the flow from other countries? You do not increase your effort; you do not desire to get more settlers of the kind required; but all you do is to cut off certain classes of settlers and say: Behold, the British percentage of the total immigration is now greatly increased. The Minister of Labour had a simpler method than that. According to him all you had to do was to bring in