

and mentally only fit to be placed in institutions which have to be maintained at tremendous expense to this country. These people should never have been permitted to come into Canada.

Surely, in the future, a different policy will be adopted and we should aim at quality rather than quantity in order to secure a better class of immigrants. We should not only be concerned with encouraging immigration into this country; we should be equally concerned with maintaining a check upon that immigration. We cannot help what has happened in the past but the future is before us and that is what we are interested in now. There should be a method of registration. All immigrants coming into Canada from European countries should be registered. They should be kept track of for a certain period, possibly two or three years, and if, at the end of that time they have not become naturalized or become Canadians and British subjects, they should be deported to the country from which they came. That appears to me to be the only way to accomplish what we desire. If we do that we will build up the country with a better class of people and that should be our object rather than to have large numbers who will not be quite so desirable. By a system of registration and keeping track of immigrants for a reasonable time we will know whether they are desirable or not and if they fail to become naturalized we can deal with them.

The experience that we have had in the last four or five years with that class of people who did not become naturalized, who were aliens, foreigners to this country, has not been a happy or a profitable one. I made the statement on the floor of this House last session, that there were thousands of foreigners throughout the Dominion who were taking the places of our own boys who had responded to the call of the Empire. These men were occupying positions in which they were drawing large sums of money for wages, amounting on the average from five to ten dollars a day, and running each month to hundreds of thousands of dollars, perhaps even millions. They were becoming wealthy at the expense of our own boys who had left the country for overseas service, and I suggested that there should be a commission, or a committee, appointed to go into the matter and ascertain the actual number of these people, their method of living, and the amounts they are earning. A war tax might then be levied on these foreigners who are earning such large sums of money, and whose method of living was such that they saved al-

[Mr. Foster.]

most all they earned. I think I recited, on the occasion referred to, two or three cases that we knew of in the city of Toronto, cases where men were brought into the hospital. Of these men one carried \$3,000 in a belt, another had \$2,500, and a third had \$900. It seems to me that the present time is opportune for the carrying out of my suggestion. These foreigners, just as soon as conditions have changed in Canada, will disappear almost over-night, each one carrying with him virtually a bank, carrying money that we have received no benefit whatever from in the way of a revenue. I also said last session that we should have levied a war tax on these foreigners, the revenue from which might be applied to alleviating the condition of the orphans or widows of our deceased soldiers. Had my suggestion been carried out it would have brought in an immense revenue to the country, and would have materially lightened the burden to be borne by our own people. To-day we read in the newspapers that some ten thousand of these foreigners wish to return to some foreign country, and that five thousand others are seeking to be transported to the country from which they came. There are thousands of them going back to their native land where they will be able on Canadian money to live in comfort for the rest of their days. They are carrying millions of good money from Canada which will go to enrich other countries, and we shall derive no benefit from it whatever. So I say, our experience in the past suggests that we should adopt a different policy for the future.

In a few days legislation will be submitted to this House having for its object the expenditure of some \$20,000,000 for the construction and improvement of highways. In this connection I wish to congratulate the province of Ontario for the measures it is taking to create public works to afford work for the unemployed, and I shall submit a few figures which I think go to show that Ontario at least is alert to the present situation. In the province of Ontario there are thirty-seven counties, of which thirty-six have established county road systems. These systems comprise a total mileage of 9,400. If to these figures be added the proposed mileage of the provincial system, amounting to 600, it will give a total of 10,000 miles of improved roadways. The expenditures for the year on the county road system will exceed \$3,000,000, whereas the provincial system involves an expenditure on roads of approximately \$2,000,000. The province of Ontario is arranging to provide this large expenditure for the purpose of