

*Supply—Immigration*

where they are being placed. The department is interested not only in getting immigrants but in looking after their welfare afterwards; but the railway's interest is simply to bring the people out and get increased freight traffic.

Mr. GARDINER: With respect to the agreement that the department has with Great Britain to settle families in this country, while it is quite true that he may have inherited this policy—

Mr. FORKE: The land settlement scheme will come after this estimate is disposed of.

Mr. GARDINER: But this covers immigration; I will deal with the land settlement scheme later. When we look at it from the viewpoint of the Canadian I do not envy the minister his inheritance. While it may be all right after you have satisfied the demand of those of the Canadian people who wish to go on the land to enter into such an agreement with Great Britain, in my judgment there are some circumstances underlying that agreement which call for discussion.

The department has taken 3,000 abandoned soldier farms for the purpose of settling them with British immigrants. I want to point out to the minister that we have in western Canada to-day returned men who have their equipment and who are anxious to secure land through the soldier settlement scheme. But they are turned down, the reason being given that these lands are reserved for British immigrants. That policy is not fair to Canadians generally and more particularly is it unfair to the returned men. We owe a duty to our returned soldiers and we shall not have lived up to it so long as one returned man who is in a position to go on the land finds it impossible to secure land from the department. I would suggest to the minister that he review the whole situation. It is quite possible that he has gone so far as to be unable to draw back, but that is no reason why he should not make provision for the needs of Canadians themselves and especially of Canadian returned men. I am satisfied from experience that there are thousands of Canadians well qualified to settle on the land, men of experience who have their own equipment and who can settle without cost to the government, provided the land is given them on the same terms as it is granted to British immigrants. I make this suggestion to the minister, realizing the problem he has to solve, and I hope he will look into the matter with a view to meeting the situation.

[Mr. Spencer.]

Mr. SPENCER: I have a newspaper clipping which states that during the year 1927 more than 6,000 Hungarians will come into Canada. Is that statement true?

Mr. FORKE: I do not know anything whatever about it.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I want to associate myself in one regard with the hon. member for Frontenac-Addington and that is with reference to the assimilability of certain immigrants. The Canadian Pacific Railway under this iniquitous permit system has brought into Canada in one year a total of 21,000 immigrants, 7,000 of whom were Mennonites who were unassimilable. There is no one who knows better than the Minister of Immigration himself the defects of that type of people. In my constituency they are spreading their holdings into the best wheat farming districts. They are good pay, as the vernacular has it, and they will go into a district and buy land from the private settler, and the moment they do so community life begins to lag. They take no interest in the welfare of the district and will not take part in any of our organization meetings.

Mr. BENNETT: You cannot blame them for not coming to your meetings.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Nor will they attend Conservative meetings. They do not engage in any community work. As soon as they settle in a district there becomes evident a falling off in these activities. It has been contended that after one or two generations, these people become used to our customs and are almost wholly Canadian. I deny that. The experience in Manitoba where the Mennonites first settled is altogether to the contrary. In the course of time one or two or three individuals may break away from the group. These men having developed some individuality of their own resent the shackling influences of the organization to which they belong and, throwing them off, they become effective citizens. But the majority stay right where they are in the little colony group. They do not exercise the franchise nor do they share in any respect in the responsibilities of citizenship. They are not citizens and they do not become Canadians.

Mr. NEILL: Do they become naturalized?

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): If they are forced to, but many of them do not bother their heads about it. The bulk of them are unwilling to become Canadians. Now I have