

Mr. FORKE: There is an arrangement with regard to the extension of what is known as the three thousand family scheme—that is, the bringing of families into New Brunswick. It is a three-way arrangement, to which the Overseas Land Settlement Board has already agreed; it is not quite completed, but is really an extension of the three thousand family scheme. I do not know whether the hon. member knows exactly how that operates; it is an arrangement between the province, which will provide the farm, the Imperial government which advances £300 to the immigrant, and the Department of Immigration which looks after them and places them on the farm. That is the scheme in the rough, but I cannot exactly define it for you; it is not completed so far as the Imperial government is concerned, but there is no doubt it will be carried through. We hope to place 200 families on farms in the maritime provinces this year.

Mr. MacLAREN: Has it any particular reference to boys and girls?

Mr. FORKE: Nova Scotia and the department have a boy scheme in conjunction; New Brunswick is carrying through its own boy scheme, receiving the same assistance all organizations receive in the way of free passages and the granting of \$10 for every boy brought over.

I do not want to delay my own estimates, but while I am on my feet I would like to say that I thoroughly agree with the remarks of the hon. member for Frontenac (Mr. Edwards). Perhaps I should have left this alone, but I have always felt Quebec to be in a little different position from the other provinces. The people are almost entirely of one race, and we spend very little money on immigration in that province. My hon. friend has stated the case fairly and fully; it is all out in the open, whether it be wise or not, and that is the reason why these people have been allowed a certain latitude not given others.

Mr. IRVINE: I would like to ask the minister if he does not think the industrial life of Canada is pretty well over-balanced now, and that as a matter of fact we have too many farmers as compared with the number of men employed in other industries? It would seem to me that the policy of the department is going to further over-balance our industrial life, because too many farmers will reduce the price of wheat just as too many labourers will bring down wages.

Mr. FORKE: I have considered that question and I find that when this Dominion was exporting 100,000,000 bushels of wheat we did

[Mr. MacLaren.]

not have as good a market as we now have when we export 400,000,000 bushels, so I am not very much afraid. The world has never had too much food in all the experience of humanity, so there is not much danger that we are going to produce more food than the people require.

Mr. GARDINER: I would like the minister to give a brief outline of the policy of the department. Since I have been in the House, this is the first time we have had a Minister of Immigration who was responsible for that department only; previously another minister has had charge of this department. Consequently I think the minister might give us a brief outline of the proposed activities of the department, which will possibly save a great deal of discussion later on.

Mr. BENNETT: Before the minister answers, there is a question I would like to bring up and which I am under obligation to ask him. In December last the divisional commissioner of the department wrote to a gentleman who was arranging to have his brother come to Canada, as follows:

I beg to advise that the department has been unable to find a record of your admission to Canada in January, 1904, either at Montreal or at New York. However, the Department of the Secretary of State have advised that you became a naturalized citizen at Calgary on the 6th October, 1908, when you claimed to be a labourer by occupation, and a former national of Russia.

Kindly consult with fellow passengers—

Twenty-two years later.

—in order to obtain correct information regarding your sailing and landing in Canada. Did you proceed from Montreal to New York, or vice versa?

Here is a gentleman who came to western Canada; he married an English woman and they now have two children, one a promising student in high school and the other working in the community. This poor man looked upon this letter as a sort of terrorist reign of Russia, and he thought when he saw these departmental officers going around inquiring about him that he was under conditions again which he had left Russia to escape. I think the minister will realize this is carrying the matter to an extreme, and I do hope he will take some steps to see that that is stopped in Canada. A man who has been a Canadian citizen for eighteen years, who is married and has a family, is being pursued and harassed and cannot quite understand why. Cannot something be done by the minister to stop inquiries of this kind?

There is another matter of which I would like to speak, and that is this permit busi-