

9 EDWARD VII., A. 1909

likely to become, insane, epileptic or consumptive or who is idiotic, feeble-minded or afflicted with a contagious, infectious or loathsome disease; or who is deaf, dumb or blind or otherwise physically defective or whose present appearance would lead me to believe that he or she might be debarred from entering Canada under the Immigration Act of 1909 with the exception of the persons whose names are enumerated on the 'ship surgeon's list for medical examining officer' which I have prepared for such officer, giving my medical opinion on the cases therein dealt with; and that there were no deaths or births during the passage except those mentioned under said list.'

We propose that the ship's doctor shall make a detailed examination of every passenger and file it with our examining officers at the port the names and cases giving his observations on them.

Q. That examination will take place during the voyage?

A. During the voyage. They have got from six to ten days in which to make that examination.

Q. Is it intended to introduce that change?

A. It is intended to introduce that change.

Q. That has been decided upon?

A. We have decided upon it quite recently but we have not put it in force yet.

Q. Is that examination and certificate of the ship's surgeon provided for in the bill which is now before the House?

A. It is not necessary to provide for it in the bill; we can do so under regulation.

*By Mr. Wilson (Lennox and Addington):*

Q. Does not the United States provide for such regulation by statute? I think there are a number of such provisions in their Act?

A. No. I think the present Canadian bill is very much the same as the American Act.

Q. I know there are some of those things provided for in the American Act.

A. Then as I was saying the ship's doctor files with our examining officers a list giving the passenger's name and the reason why the immigrant should be, or may be, detained.

*By Mr. Monk:*

Q. If it has been considered possible to get this information respecting the immigrant during the voyage across the ocean, why do you say that it would be impossible for him to furnish the certificate of a reputable physician on the other side who knows his condition?

A. I did not say it would be impossible.

Q. Then you see no objections to this being done?

A. None at all.

Q. It would be an advantage to know that a man of that kind was not afflicted with some physical defect or with some disease that would be an objection to his landing in Canada?

A. A medical certificate would be of no use in determining whether the man is a criminal or not.

Q. Of course, from physical examination you could not find out whether the immigrant is a criminal or not?

A. The certificate which you propose is simply as to whether he is a respectable citizen or not?

Q. Why could he not furnish a certificate from his physician on the other side?

A. Well, in cases where the immigrant is assisted in any way we have a form for him to fill out. It involves a lengthy medical examination.