

*Supply—Immigration*

men suggested that not only Canada but the Dominions in general should be used as countries to which to send those of the British people, English, Irish, Scotch and Welsh, I presume, who were not physically up to the mark, as a method of "reinvigorating" them—I think that was the expression used. I do not know the attitude taken by the departmental people in England, but I am quite sure the department does not feel that this country can afford to act as a reinvigorating agency for any class of people, whether British or otherwise, because, after all, whatever people come to this country should be physically fit to take their place and make their way. There is no easy road to success in this country; hard work and effort are essential. If this has not already been done I believe it is the duty of the Government at the present time to advise publicly the people of Great Britain as to the Government's attitude on the matter, because men of the prominence of Rider Haggard, the Bishop of Birmingham and others who have made similar speeches at other times should be made aware of the fact that the Dominions do not wish people, whether British or otherwise, who are not physically fit to make their way, to come to Canada, on account of the hardships they will encounter and the efforts required to ensure success in this country.

There is another point in regard to which I wish to offer a suggestion which may not have already been brought to the minister's attention. I refer to a method by which Australia is obtaining a very good class of citizens, and which is called the "nomination system,"—I do not know whether the minister has heard of it or not. I read a good account of it recently in the *Atlantic Magazine* or one of the other monthly reviews. In that system the method is employed of accepting nominations from citizens who have come from the Old Land, particularly from the British Isles, and who have made good in Australia. They have the right to nominate to the Department of Immigration of Australia certain

friends of theirs, whom they know and whom they can recommend as good citizens to

come to Australia. It is reported in the review in which I read the account, that a very fine class of citizens is being brought out in that way, because a citizen who nominates or recommends a man, feels a sort of responsibility for him. He will not, generally speaking, advise the government

[Mr. Manion.]

to admit people who are not fit to come; he knows the necessities of settlers coming to that country; and when a settler does come in, he feels a sort of responsibility, takes an interest in him and offers suggestions to him as to the best methods of getting along in Australia. The description of this system appealed very much to me, and it might be well worth the while of the minister to look into it and perhaps bring in some such system in addition to the methods which he has in force at the present time in this country.

As regards the admission to Canada of people from various parts of the world, the United States has found it necessary to restrict their immigration, and this Government is correct in putting on restrictions on certain classes of people coming into this country. We all know that we need people very much to help to solve our public problems, but we need the right kind of people brought in in such numbers that we can assimilate them. A point struck me very forcibly recently in reading an article by a very able American writer, who was giving the number of immigrants admitted into the United States in various years. As I checked up the report, I found that the United States, prior to some few years ago, had not admitted into its country the number of immigrants that Canada was admitting before the war. For example, in 1870, when the population of the United States was 38,000,000, the number of immigrants into the United States was only 378,000, whereas Canada, in 1914, just before the war, with a population of considerably less than 9,000,000, admitted 402,000. In other words, Canada, with a population of less than 9,000,000, admitted many more immigrants into her country than the United States had in any year prior to 1870, when the population of the United States was 38,000,000. That illustrates very markedly the necessity of Canada being very careful with her immigration policy, because, after all, the whole principles of democracy are based upon the general average of intelligence of the people comprising that democracy. If you admit such a large number of people into a country that they not only dilute your own democracy, but change its whole force by flooding it, so to speak, that would naturally change our whole Canadian citizenship. In a few words, I wish to bring those three or four points before the minister; but particularly, I wish to emphasize the speeches quoted by the *Winnipeg Free Press*—and, by the way, very much con-