

*Immigration Act*

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): If my hon. friend will read the next clause, it seems to me it means the inspection on his entry and does not refer to a later inspection.

Mr. MEIGHEN: It is inspection on entry, but not medical examination.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): If the man passes his medical examination and becomes ill later, would my hon. friend infer from this clause that the medical fees are to be paid by the steamship company?

Mr. MEIGHEN: It not only implies that, it absolutely compels it, provided he is detained for inspection for any other purpose.

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): I have known of two or three cases where an immigrant after arrival was detained for a bond which took a week or so to arrive. Does the government say that if he takes ill while waiting for the bond the responsibility rests upon the transportation company, or is the government responsible? I know one immigrant who did take sick while waiting for a bond. Does the government say the transportation company should be responsible in such a case as that?

Mr. ROBB: A bond is required where the immigrant comes in against the law of the land. The companies will be a little more careful about bringing that kind of people in, or they will have the bond ready when they land.

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): The immigrant arrived here to go on a farm, and a bond was required by some person here that he would stay a year on the farm, which he did, but he was detained over a week waiting for that bond.

Mr. ROBB: That was a case, probably, where the immigrant represented himself to be a farmer, but the officer on inspection looked at his hands, perhaps, and said: "This man is no farmer," and he required a bond that he would go on the farm. The transportation people should look after that before they bring the man in.

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): He went on the farm and remained there but yet he was detained a week waiting for the bond.

Mr. ROBB: And as soon as the bond expired he left the farm?

Mr. MILLAR: The minister stated that steamship companies have at times refunded certain sums when they brought in immigrants not medically fit to enter Canada. I would ask,

[Mr. Meighen.]

as a matter of information, under what conditions they refunded this money. Who made the representations, and what representations were made?

Mr. ROBB: I do not see what my hon. friend is driving at; I made no such statement. I said the steamship companies gave a refund of \$15 a head to passengers from the United Kingdom.

Mr. MILLAR: Was I wrong in understanding that when they brought in immigrants not medically fit they made a refund? I understood the minister to say that refunds were made in such cases.

Mr. ROBB: There is a penalty.

Mr. MILLAR: Have they paid any money in consequence of that penalty?

Mr. ROBB: Yes.

Mr. MILLAR: Under what conditions, and who made the representations?

Mr. ROBB: I will give my hon. friend all that information when we get into the estimates.

Section agreed to.

On section 8—Certain aliens deemed to be undesirable immigrants.

Mr. McMASTER: I shall not detain the committee long, but I would ask the minister whether the department and the country would not be amply protected if the clause should read as follows: "Or shall belong to any secret society or organization which extorts money," and so on. I do not like to give the right to anyone to deport a person on mere suspicion, or mere common repute. It would seem to me that if the law stated that when a person belonged to a society of this undesirable character he could be deported, that would be quite sufficient. The officers of the department would make an investigation, if necessary, and if in their opinion proof existed of the man belonging to such an unworthy organization, he could be deported. I make no objection to swift justice being meted out to such people. I make no objection to the department having this power, because prompt action may be and quite often is necessary, but I do not think it is consonant with the traditions of this country and British traditions generally that people should be exposed to deportation on mere repute, or what is even worse, on mere suspicion.