

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, France and the United Kingdom, people who for centuries have had the background of our democratic institutions and understand our democratic way of life. If we do not get a little leaven to leaven the lump we are bringing in, some possessed of anti-democratic points of view, then we are going to find it difficult to maintain our democratic institutions in the years to come.

I want to say that to the minister because I believe it implicit that as far as possible we should encourage immigration from countries where there are democratic institutions, where they understand our democracy; and we should be careful that we do not bring into the country too large a proportion of people—I was going to say “any people”—who are not conversant with the ways of life that we call the democratic ways of life in the country in which we live.

The two main points I wanted to make were, first, that we might speed up these decisions because it is rather painful for people who are in this country to make pleasant time and again to get their relatives in, provided they are acceptable in the sense which I have indicated. Second, I think much more care should be given than has been given to seeing that not only are communists kept out of the country—I know there is careful screening of communists, and I approve of that screening—but let the people who are imbued with the ideas of the fascists and the nazis be equally carefully screened before they are admitted to this country.

I think that immigrants properly settled in this country under a proper plan can contribute to the welfare of the country, of themselves and of the world. I have no sympathy with those who say that we are going to bring these people in to share our tax burden and consume our production; because these people are going to increase our taxation if we build schools and other facilities necessary for them, and they are going to increase our production. Probably they will balance gains and demands and we shall get no advantage, but when we are planning to build a nation in this country let us try to build it on a thoroughly democratic basis.

Mr. Hansell: I shall only detain the committee for a minute or two, and perhaps the line of thought I shall follow will be somewhat different from the speeches that have already been made.

I wish to make two particular observations. First I would like to express my appreciation to the minister himself for the efforts he has put forth in the individual

cases which I have brought to him in the past. I believe that perhaps all members might be able to say the same thing. He has cared for any cases which I have brought to him, not as rapidly as I might have expected sometimes, but if cases have to be put before other governments we can excuse some delay. I have one case pending at the present time which I will not bring up here but I will take it to the minister personally and I am sure I will receive his attention on that case as I have received it in the past.

The second observation I wanted to make is in respect to a recognition by our Canadian people of the importance of their citizenship, and of obtaining some documentary evidence of it. I say this particularly in regard to any of our Canadian citizens who may be thinking of going abroad as tourists or for a few months of study. I have in mind those of my own profession who may be expecting to go to some other country on some missionary project or work. I know that such people are not numerous, but I have had some little experience with cases of that kind and I am quite certain that our Canadian citizens do not recognize the importance of having some documentary evidence of their Canadian citizenship.

Perhaps such importance is secondary in the minds of our people because it is something that does not touch their everyday life. Only when they get into difficulties do they begin to realize that they have not paid the attention which they should have paid to that matter. It is easy for young people having some idea of study, or world travel, or going to some other country as a missionary or teacher or something of that kind, to think they can do all sorts of things in their travels and then, in the end, they find they are in difficulty.

I know a case where a young gentleman left Canada to go to the United States to take up some studies. After taking his studies he did some professional work, and while in the United States he married. In the process of time he went over to China and spent a considerable period there. When certain circumstances in China meant that he had to leave he went to Africa because there was some Chinese work in Africa which he had an opportunity to take on and be of some service. The upshot of all this was that he found some difficulty in the first place in respect to the fact that he had married a young American citizen. There was some complication in respect of what her citizenship was and what her status was in some of these other countries. By the way, the young man himself