

country, must say who are to come here. We have that right. And if it be the wish of this country that any nationality be excluded, that is the business of the country. It is far better to exclude them, whoever they may be, than to admit them in a position of inferiority, under which they are not permitted to enter into all the privileges enjoyed by Canadian citizens.

Mr. GILLIS: Send them to the maritimes and they would be right at home.

Mr. IRVINE: I conclude with this, that there still remains a point of discrimination in the legislation. I am going to vote for the bill, because it represents a very considerable improvement. However I am pleading with the Prime Minister to go a little bit further so as to remove the one remaining discrimination which, I say, is a disgrace to Canada, and does more harm to us than it would do to anyone, even if it were our intention to do harm by maintaining it.

Mr. T. A. KIDD (Kingston City): Mr. Speaker, we are now dealing with Bill No. 10, to amend the Immigration Act and to repeal the Chinese Immigration Act, first reading of which took place on February 7. This bill has been framed so as to deal with two different subjects, and from the expressions of opinion from some seventeen or eighteen members who have already spoken, it is evident that the bill is contentious.

Immigration cannot be approached without dealing with emigration. Today a most alarming condition is rapidly developing in Canada. It is a repetition of what occurred in 1920 and 1930. During the past eighteen months hundreds—yes, thousands—of Canada's first-class citizens have been emigrating across the border to the United States. Of course this is through no fault of their own, but is due to conditions existing in Canada at the present time. Young Canadians with families, who have been educated in our colleges, collegiates, technical schools and universities, are going across the boundary line to better themselves, because no suitable employment or positions are available for them here at home.

It will be recalled that in the early twenties Canada lost 100,000 citizens annually over a period of ten years. That means that a million good Canadian citizens left Canada to take up their homes in the United States. Something was wrong. Canada's emigration should be most carefully supervised to see that there is no recurrence of the happenings of those early twenties. During that ten year period 150,000 entered Canada annually, 50,000 coming from the United Kingdom and 100,000 from central Europe and elsewhere.

That is, of every three immigrants who entered Canada only one was British, and for every three immigrants who entered Canada we lost two native sons to the United States. Doctors, nurses and members of other professions left Canada in the early twenties and are today holding senior positions in the United States. My mind goes back this afternoon to a legion reunion which was held in 1940, the first year of world war II. The eastern Ontario meeting was held in Kingston and members of the various branches attended. One was a young returned soldier of world war I who had gone to the United States in order to find employment and had located in Rochester. Twenty years later he returned to visit his friends, bringing with him his Canadian wife and three children. This boy who fought for Canada in world war I and who had the right to expect that Canada would provide employment for him on demobilization was compelled to seek his future in the United States. This case is only one of many Canadians who went to the United States in that ten year period. Think of what Canada has lost and let us see that it does not occur again.

A statement is due to the house and it should come from the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) who is in his seat today. I welcome him back. He should tell us what steps are being taken by the government to make it possible for young Canadians to see a future in Canada and obtain employment with suitable remuneration. Government immigration policies seem to have been discussed by various ministers of the crown. When the time came to present the order in council which permitted the entry of Polish immigrants it was sponsored by the then Minister of Justice, now the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. St. Laurent). The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) has given several interviews on the subject of immigration and the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell) went out of his way a few days ago to define the government policy on immigration. We more or less expected that any leadership on immigration would come from the Minister of Mines and Resources (Mr. Glen), but the minister has been silent in so far as defining what the government's policy will be on this important question. On May 1, the Prime Minister submitted to the house the government policy.

On April 30, 1946, when the house was discussing the citizenship bill, the minister seemed to go out of his way to place on record the number of British subjects who had been deported between April 30, 1930, and March 31, 1945, and I refer hon. members