

Mr. LAPOINTE: My hon. friend cannot appeal now.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already explained the rules of the House.

Mr. HEAPS: Can I not appeal?

Mr. SPEAKER: I ask the hon. gentleman to kindly preserve order in the House.

Mr. BOULANGER (Translation): Now, Sir, that calm has been restored over the disturbed waters, I trust that I may be allowed to follow up the remarks which I was about to make to the House. I was stating, when interrupted, that certain views introduced into this debate, especially, interested me.

These views were propounded by the hon. member for Laval-Two Mountains (Mr. Lacombe), in connection with immigration.

If I well understood the member for Laval-Two Mountains, he stated that if our immigrants were selected with care, if we only admitted into Canada people willing to work—people sound of body and soul—it would have been unnecessary for the hon. member for North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps) to move the present resolution. I am interested in this question because this very day, I received a request from a number of my constituents, asking me to exert pressure on the government and especially on the Minister of Immigration with a view to affording the same advantages, the same favours and the same assistance to the citizens of eastern Canada who wished to settle in the west, as those afforded to immigrants from Europe. If the same assistance was given to the citizens of eastern Canada, in order to help them to settle in western Canada, our people would never think of asking for the enactment of the resolution we are at present discussing, for the simple reason that the people of eastern Canada have some pride and self-confidence and rely only on the work of their hands or brain to earn their living, and, therefore do not depend on the government to support either their families or themselves.

To assist European immigration, we already spend large sums so as to reimburse them of part of their travelling expenses and also to enable them to reach western Canada. Loans are even made to them so as to allow them to purchase land, farming implements and all that is needed to settle on the land. Taking into account, Sir, all these expenditures made to help immigration, taking also into account the outlay which we must further make to assist our fellow-citizens of

the maritime provinces who claim that they are greatly in need of government assistance in the present crisis, considering the disbursements which we have to make to meet our war debt, rescue those who suffered on the battlefields or elsewhere as an aftermath of the war, develop our natural resources, I state that the time is not ripe and the country cannot afford the additional amounts necessary to enact legislation based on a resolution of this nature. We are told: It is not a question of the government assuming all the expenses necessitated by the enactment of this resolution. Very well. Even supposing the recipients are made to contribute, it is nevertheless true that the greatest portion of the money which will constitute the funds of this insurance will come from the treasury of Canada. In the riding which I have the honour to represent and in the province of Quebec as a whole, we do not need a resolution of this nature, we do not need the enactment of a government insurance scheme for our sick people, our unemployed and for those who are destitute. Why, Sir? Because, in the county of Bellechasse and in the province of Quebec, we are good Christians and we practise the maxim of Christ: Help one another. We do not live in opulence in my county, but there is no great poverty. All our citizens are good people and live comfortably; and should it happen that one of our neighbours becomes destitute, falls sick or is out of work, his friends put their hands in their pockets and help him through those unfortunate days. I do not wish to infer that our friends hailing from the west are less good Christians than we are, but it strikes me that if they would only put into practice as we do in the province of Quebec, this Gospel truth: Help one another, they would not come before the House and ask the government to supplement their own personal liabilities, those they should themselves discharge towards their neighbours. It is time, Sir, to put a stop to this desire of placing all the burdens, both those of the community and individual, on the shoulders of the government; it is time to react against this continuous appeal to the public treasury in favour of such and such a scheme more or less fantastic, more or less well conceived or thought out; it is time that we should react against these schemes that only tend to increase the country's debt when our finances at present are far from being flourishing.

At six o'clock the House adjourned, without question being put, pursuant to rule.