

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

we have had an increase of about 30 per cent in the number of Canadians returning to their homeland. Part of this is undoubtedly due to the flattering publicity Canada is receiving south of the border, publicity of the great development in this country, and of a healthy climate for investment and enterprise.

And now, Mr. Chairman, I would like to take just a very brief look at the future. The government is fully aware that Canada needs more people, that we cannot fulfil our destiny and develop our resources with a population of only a little more than fourteen and a half million. The government is fully aware that natural increase will not alone provide the population we must have. The government is aware also of the fact that the difficult times we had in the 1930's had an effect on the natural increase and the number of Canadians reaching working age is lower than normal at the present time. Accordingly the government will continue its program of immigration to stimulate Canadian growth and Canadian development.

To give effect to this, we are now selecting immigrants on a very wide basis. First priority, of course, is being given in all countries to the movement of close relatives of people already established in Canada. I believe hon. members will agree with this. However, the close relatives are only a percentage of those we are selecting now. For instance, in all countries where we have immigration offices, outside of Asia, we are selecting, in addition to the close relatives, anyone who meets our qualifications and for whom there are opportunities in Canada. There is one exception to the above; that is in the Netherlands, with which country we have an agreement for the selection of immigrants. In those countries where we have no immigration offices we are able to deal only with cases of close relatives and cases of exceptional merit.

The approach will continue to be a realistic one, with the development of our economy the guiding factor. We shall anticipate future developments as closely as we can and gear our immigration program to them, realizing as we do that the next few years will present greater opportunities for the growth of the Canadian nation than ever before, and that under these circumstances there is an obligation on the government to seize the opportunity and make the maximum use of it, not only in the interests of our people but in the interests of peace.

Canada has much to contribute to the peace of the world; and that contribution will be the greater as we grow in numbers, not only by natural increase but by the addition

[Mr. Harris.]

to our population of others who will acquire Canadian ways and add something to our national life, and who are quite prepared to play their part in building and defending their country of the future.

Mr. Gillis: Mr. Chairman, we have listened with interest to the minister's brief report, and I am very sorry we cannot let him go on with the estimates and finish the discussion this evening. However, I am reasonably sure he did not expect that, and we do not want to disappoint him.

This is a subject about which I do not think we have had sufficient discussion. In my opinion the whole future of Canada depends to a great extent upon what our immigration policy may be, and how well we plan it. In my view immigration cannot be discussed intelligently unless other related factors are considered. Immigration, employment and housing are in my opinion interrelated; and a considerable amount of study and planning must take place if our immigration policy is to be realistic and successful.

The Canadian Congress of Labour and the Trades and Labour Congress made representations to the government within the last few months. They had a section in their brief dealing with this particular matter. They are not opposed to immigration, but they believe in planning it and considering all the factors related to it.

One of the fields that must be carefully surveyed by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration and the Department of Labour is the field of employment. Mr. Mosher, president of the C.C.L., speaking only last week in Saint John, New Brunswick, suggested that unemployment could be looked for from some of the signs they are seeing today, such as a growing resistance of employers to increased wages, the general unrest that is beginning to creep in which indicates a levelling off, and so on. With the curtailment of defence spending in the foreseeable future, pockets of unemployment might develop across the country. These are all things which the Department of Immigration should check closely with the Department of Labour.

I know that if you go across the country from the maritimes to British Columbia you will find that in large industrial centres like Montreal, Toronto, Windsor and Vancouver there is growing uneasiness on the part of the industrial worker because of the influx of people from other parts of the world into those particular centres. I think that adds up to a lack of planning. If you have a recession in those areas you will have a