

admits farmers. Could we get artisans and common labourers from northern Europe today if the government were ready to open the door wide enough to admit them?

Mr. ROBB: Undoubtedly.

Mr. MEIGHEN: In large numbers?

Mr. ROBB: I should think so.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Would the minister estimate how many a year?

Mr. ROBB: No, I would not go into that.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I am certain that the minister's official, who is sitting close to him, could tell him. That official should know how many per year could be obtained from all the northern countries in Europe.

Mr. ROBB: The way to do would be to take an average of the past few years. My hon. friend knows the average for ten years.

Mr. MEIGHEN: No, that would not answer, because there have always been restrictions. Suppose we were to remove these restrictions on artisans from the northern countries, Poland, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Holland, Belgium and France, about how many would the minister estimate would be ready to come in the first year?

Mr. ROBB: I could not say that, but if my hon. friend wants the record he could refer to the past history. I think they were coming in at the rate of a thousand a day during the peak of immigration prior to the war, and I think at one period over 400,000 a year came in.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Were artisans admitted without limit?

Mr. ROBB: I was not administering the department.

Mr. McMASTER: I do not think there was much limit at that time.

An hon. MEMBER: Fifty dollars a head.

Mr. MEIGHEN: There were restrictions even then on artisans.

Mr. ROBB: The money test.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The minister will say that a very large number of those artisans from northern Europe would undoubtedly come to Canada if the bars were raised.

Mr. ROBB: I believe they would.

Mr. MEIGHEN: What other classes?

Mr. ROBB: I have told the hon. member.
[Mr. Meighen.]

Mr. MEIGHEN: Common labourers.

Mr. ROBB: I presume so.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I presume they would come over in large numbers.

Mr. ROBB: I do not know the conditions over there, but I think they would.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The minister will realize, although he does not say it, that what we need in this country is work for the common labourer and artisan.

Mr. ROBB: I thought my hon. friend was leading up to that; but let me say that during the period, 1911, 1912 and 1913 they were building cities in western Canada, and they required artisans to build railways. They were paving streets and putting in sewers. I think the largest demonstration of unemployed that I ever saw in my life was in Regina in June 1914.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The minister has not travelled far. That was very, very brief, and the minister's experience was limited. It would not amount to anything.

Mr. ROBB: I will admit a limited experience.

Mr. MEIGHEN: He will have more experience, I think, this winter.

Mr. MARLER: The question raised a few moments ago by the hon. member for South Wellington (Mr. Guthrie) regarding restrictions on immigration is a subject to which I think the government and also the House has given a great deal of attention and study. On various occasions, not only in this House but also in the city of Montreal, I have spoken in regard to the subject of restriction relating to immigration. Last year in this House I advocated the open door. Last fall in Montreal I advocated the open door again as regards immigrants who are mentally sound; but in advocating the open door I have always done so having in view at the same time whether, that door being open, there was sufficient work to go around in this country to supply those who did come here with work and with a livelihood. That is the qualification which I always added when I advocated the open door, which I have done from time to time. As to whether these restrictions which exist at the present time should now be raised is a question which to my mind needs the most careful and the most mature consideration, because the emigration from Canada to the United States has been very serious indeed.