

*Supply—Labour*

**Mr. Higgins:** Is there any definite amount required for the whole of Canada?

**Mr. Gregg:** At the present time not very many, as the hon. member knows. The filling of vacancies in Newfoundland has gone on rapidly this last year. I noticed in figures I saw the other day that 58 per cent fewer people registered in our unemployment office there than there were this time last year.

**Mr. Higgins:** I was referring to woodworkers, for whom there is a demand on the mainland of Canada. Are many being brought in for that particular trade, and are there many being brought from Newfoundland to work on the mainland? I understand there is a great demand.

**Mr. Gregg:** We have had no requests.

**Mr. Gillis:** The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration said that last year there were 204 from outside Canada who went to Newfoundland. It seems to me that moving Newfoundlanders into Ontario —

**Mr. Gregg:** Temporarily.

**Mr. Gillis:** Possibly so; but what I am interested in is—

**Mr. Knowles:** Like some civil servants—temporary-permanent.

**Mr. Gillis:** —what classifications came from outside Newfoundland. It looks foolish to bring people in and at the same time drive them out.

**Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce):** A large proportion of the 204 were technicians being brought to Newfoundland by the government of the province for the purpose of increasing productive capacity and industrial capacity to absorb labour.

**Mrs. Fairclough:** I notice in this item the expression, "including costs connected with the supervision and welfare of persons", and so on. There is an item for hospitalization and medical aid, which is not very large. Who assumes responsibility for these people in the event of their becoming public charges? Does the government accept responsibility for them for a certain period of time after their arrival in Canada? If so, does that come under this item.

**Mr. Gregg:** After arrival in Canada they may call for a short period of time at one or other of the hostels. If they should be ill at that time it is the responsibility of the federal authorities. However, when they are placed in employment, in common with other Canadians, they become the responsibility of the provincial authorities.

**Mr. Knowles:** I understand this item includes an amount to be spent in assisting

the movement of immigrants to Canada to work in the sugar beet fields in, for example, my own province of Manitoba. If that is so, I should like to ask a question of the minister. As he knows, the question as to the welfare and continuing employment of these people has been the subject matter of some concern and even some controversy in my province. I understand federal money is expended to help bring these people over, and that it is done at the request of the Manitoba Sugar Company.

**Mr. Gregg:** At the request of the province, so far as we are concerned.

**Mr. Knowles:** All right, at the request of the province; but I believe it is correct to say that so far as Manitoba is concerned the province is simply passing on a request made to it by the Manitoba Sugar Company. I understand that as a rule these people are brought over at the season of the year in which they are most needed in the sugar beet fields, and that when the fall comes along and there is no further need for their services in that connection, in places where there are contracts with the Manitoba Sugar Company, these persons find themselves having to report to the employment offices in Winnipeg which come under the jurisdiction of the minister. It would seem that this does present a problem.

I quite approve the policy of aiding immigration to this country, particularly when it is on a selective basis or when it is on humanitarian grounds. But it does seem to me that, if we are going to spend federal money assisting a company like the Manitoba Sugar Company to get over here employees whom they need, that company has some responsibility to see to it that these people are continued in employment and not thrown back on the various governments when the company has no further need for them. In the spring the company may want them back. If the company is going to act that way I do not think they should get any financial assistance from the public. On the other hand, if we do provide assistance I suggest that some responsibility rests upon the company. I should be glad to have some comment from the minister on this matter.

**Mr. Gregg:** I know of the matter to which my hon. friend refers. We have had no serious complaints from those brought in or from the municipal authorities that people had been left on their hands. The information I have had so far is that after they are through working for the sugar beet company, in the main they find employment in some other field of activity. I shall be glad to look into the matter during the recess.