

think it would be very well indeed if the department would endeavour to determine the causes of emigration from Canada. If it solved that problem and applied the remedy, there would be very little trouble in getting immigrants for Canada. That, I think, is the real problem, the serious problem, that confronts this department at the present time. Now the Minister of Immigration himself, speaking some time ago at a meeting of weekly newspaper proprietors or editors, made a remark something like this: He said that in the last decade we had lost about two millions, in round numbers, of the residents of this country, and that during the same period twenty million dollars—I think that was the figure—had been spent on immigration. He went on to say that the Government was anxious, and he himself was anxious, to find the cause for this loss. I had been under the impression that we representatives from the West had been endeavouring to show him the causes; we argue that they are economic in their nature. I am sorry that we failed to enlighten the minister, but I hope he will give patient thought and deep consideration to the cause of our loss of population. If we had maintained the immense number—amounting, I think, to two millions—that we have lost we would be in a much happier condition in this country to-day.

I deplore the policy of child immigration and I wish to go on record as protesting against it. I do not think it is fair to Canada, nor do I think it is fair to the children themselves who are coming over here. I would like to ask any member of this House how he would like to see his children hired out to unknown persons in an unknown country. To be frank with the committee I think such a policy amounts to brutality. Take farms where they are already children, and I am afraid that in the majority of cases the grossest discrimination will be displayed against the unfortunate immigrant child. I was very glad to hear the remarks of the hon. member for Fort William and Rainy River (Mr. Manion) with regard to the importance of looking after the health of our immigrants. It is quite true, as the minister himself remarked a few minutes ago, that due consideration can and should be given to the history of adult immigrants, but let us see what type of immigrants must these children be? Probably they come from orphan homes, or from the home of degenerate families. Nobody but degenerate parents

would want to part with children to send them away to work in a distant country. How are you going to obtain the family history of children coming from such homes? You will be able to ascertain little or nothing about them. Therefore, I say child immigration is wrong.

I now want to call attention to an extract from the Manitoba Free Press of May 15, and I do so because I believe that gross injustice has been done to residents in foreign countries by unscrupulous agents, whether of the steamships companies or real estate companies, or other people connected even with the government. This item reads:

Prince Rupert, B.C., May 17 (By Canadian Press.)—Protests are being received by local newspapers and government offices from British settlers in Massett, Queen Charlotte islands, who recently came over from England. The settlers arranged for the passage and settlement through a private company in England, but they are asking government assistance in clearing the land, which they say was represented to them as rich agricultural property, with no mention being made of the timber to be removed before farming could be started.

They also claim they were promised that mill work would be available to assist them in making a living. This work has not been commenced, they say, and no machinery to start the mills is in sight.

Shareholders say they were invited by a London company to buy plots in Massett at \$300 each, and now find themselves unable either to farm the land or to earn a living in any other way.

I am sure this is worthy of the attention of the minister. In conclusion, I desire to ask the Minister this question:

Does the Government repay the immigrant who is deported on arrival on this side, because of ill-health or disease, the fare to this country which he has paid to the Canadian Pacific or some other line?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): He is taken back by the shipping company.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Free of charge?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): But he has already paid his way out; he does not get that back. What has the Government to do with that?

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I think the suggestion of the hon. member for East Calgary (Mr. Irvine), that you should establish in the country from which you are inviting immigrants a place where they could be examined before embarking, is a good one.