

ARMENIAN IMMIGRATION

Mr. ELLIOTT (Waterloo):

1. Is the government discouraging Armenian immigration into Canada?
2. If so, why?
3. How many Armenians have entered Canada since January 1st, 1924?

Hon. Mr. ROBB:

1. The immigration regulation impose upon Armenians as well as upon immigrants of many other nationalities an occupational test and also upon Armenians as well as upon other Asiatics the money test. The occupation test restricts immigration from Armenia to, (a) farmers and farm labourers coming to settle on the land; (b) women coming to engage in housework; and (c) the wife and minor children of any person legally resident in Canada. The money test is \$250 and Asiatic immigrants are required to be in possession of \$250 as a condition of landing. This, however, does not apply to a wife or minor children. As Armenians seldom farm in Canada, it naturally follows that the application of the immigration regulations reduces Armenian immigration to a small number annually.

2. Answered by No. 1.

3. Incomplete returns to the end of April give the number of admissions as 163.

HOME BANK

Mr. SPENCER:

1. Did the officials of the Home Bank approach the Finance department of the government in 1923 to obtain an advance or advances under the Finance Act?

2. If so, on what date or dates, and for what amounts?

3. If a refusal was made, what reasons were given for same?

Hon. Mr. ROBB:

1. No fresh advances were applied for.

2 and 3. Prior to May 1st, on which date all loans under the Finance Act became due, the bank made formal application for the authorization of a standing credit up to \$3,000,000 against securities acceptable to the Treasury Board, including the renewal of an outstanding loan of \$220,000 secured by Dominion bonds of a like amount. This application was approved, but the bank did not submit any additional securities or avail itself of the provision apart from the renewal of the existing loan.

HON. MR. MURDOCK AND HOME BANK

Mr. E. GUSS PORTER (West Hastings):
Mr. Speaker, I propose to move a resolution which affects not only the public interest but the honour of this House. It affects more particularly, in fact very particularly, the hon. Minister of Labour (Mr. Murdock). I have

taken occasion, Sir, to notify him of my intention, and I have also supplied him with a copy of the resolution. I have received a reply from him that the action about to be taken by me is satisfactory to him.

The matter concerned is the relation of and dealings by the hon. minister, in his personal capacity and as minister of the Crown, with the defunct Home Bank, these dealings being confined to the day or two prior to its failure. It had been my intention to bring this matter before the House at an earlier date, but unfortunately I did not find an opportunity of doing so.

In presenting what I have to say in this connection I have no desire whatever to express a personal opinion or to comment upon the facts. I desire only to bring the facts as they have been disclosed to me to the attention of the House for such action as the House may see fit to take in the circumstances. I can only undertake to state, in addition to the facts as they have been disclosed to me, certain principles and rules of parliament which, the evidence has convinced me, have been infringed by the hon. minister.

In moving this resolution I hope that my intentions will not be misconstrued or my language misapprehended. I have no personal quarrel with the hon. minister; in fact I have no personal acquaintance with the hon. gentleman further than to have met him occasionally in the corridors of the House. I have no quarrel with him as minister of the department over which he presides or as a representative of that class of people with whose interests he is most intimately connected. I have no Home Bank depositors or shareholders, so far as I know, in the riding which I have the honour to represent in this House. I have no political feeling in the matter; I have tried as best I can to divest myself of any feeling of that character, and I only desire and hope that what I may say in connection with this matter may be received by the House in that spirit. My only desire, my only intention in moving this resolution is that the dignity and the honour of parliament may be preserved, that its rights, its privileges and its traditions may not be infringed upon either by the hon. minister who is here charged or by any other hon. member. It is just as important that the honour and integrity of a member of the House or the government should at all times be sustained as it is that the honour of the House should be sustained, and it is with that double view that I take this action. Without that preservation of the integrity of ministers of the Crown particularly, and of members of the House in general, it would