

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration***SAINT PATRICK'S DAY**

MR. MCIVOR—GREETINGS TO MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Daniel McIvor (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege, the celebration of St. Patrick's day is still on in memory of that great saint who drove the snakes and frogs into the bogs and bothered all the varmints. We bring you greetings, Mr. Speaker, and we wish you and the big family over whom you preside good success, true happiness and cheerio.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East) in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION
Immigration branch—

553. Field and inspectional service, Canada—further amount required, \$194,177.

Mr. Knowles: Before item 553 carries I wonder if I might be permitted to put a question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, supplementary to the question I asked a few minutes ago when we were on orders of the day. Can he say whether there is any policy, so far as his department is concerned, either for or against such a proposal as that to which a press report referred, namely the possibility of a whole group of people wishing to transplant their entire setup, their entire way of life, from Scotland to one of the islands near Newfoundland? Can he say whether the department has any policy in this regard?

Mr. Pickersgill: I do not think it would be quite right to say that there is anything that could be dignified by the word "policy". There have been a number of occasions upon which a considerable number of people from the same locality have arranged to move together to the same part of Canada. This happens much more rarely in these times than it did in times when most of the immigration was for land settlement. If the proposal is really a serious one, and I have not had any chance of finding that out yet, we would certainly look at it as sympathetically as possible, especially for people from Scotland.

Mr. Herridge: A few days ago some of us in the house were very surprised when the minister announced what appeared to us to be a new policy for his department when he said that the government would pay the cost of maintaining all immigrants who came to Canada for the period of a year during which they were unable to obtain employment. Could the minister elaborate on that and tell us when this policy was first given effect?

[Mr. Howe (Port Arthur).]

Mr. Pickersgill: I think the second part of the question had better be answered by the Minister of Finance because that policy was in effect when he was minister.

I do not think my statement was quite as the hon. member set it out in the first part of his question, but what I was trying to say was that if an immigrant came to Canada—we try not to let immigrants in who are going to become indigents—and became an indigent we do provide subsistence for him during the first year until such time as he can get a job or some other way of supporting himself. We do not encourage them to regard this as the normal way of living, but it is to tide them over brief periods of unemployment when they have not been in the country long enough to qualify for local social benefits.

Mr. Fulton: Has the minister given any consideration to the problem which was discussed here earlier in the session with regard to reception facility arrangements to be made in connection with the movement of Hungarian refugees? At that time it was perhaps a little early to say whether there would have to be the acceptance of greater responsibility by this government or whether the refugees would fit in fairly readily into the Canadian pattern of life. We on this side suggested we felt the federal government would have to take some further step for the establishment of reception and welfare centres pending the training of these people to take their place in the Canadian scheme. There have been some continuing controversies in the press, and I was wondering whether the minister was in a position to give us some further information about it in the light of the further experience that has been had?

Mr. Pickersgill: Very briefly, sir, I might say that our experience has been that we have had no difficulty up until now in finding accommodation for the Hungarian refugees, thanks in very large part to the Canadian people who have come forward and offered them hospitality, either completely free or hospitality which was paid for in their homes. There are a number of quite large reception centres in various parts of the country. The Ontario government established two centres and recently closed one of them because they found there was no further necessity for it. It may be necessary in one or two places to improvise additional facilities in the next two or three months, not only for Hungarians but for other immigrants who may, for a day or two, need some kind of accommodation.

The most gratifying thing about the movement of Hungarians has been the speed with which most of them have found some place