

*Supply—Manpower and Immigration*

arises when a candidate has been out of school for 13 or 14 months. He is then told: You are not eligible under the law; you have not been in the labour force for three years.

I should like the minister to clarify this point, if he can, because it is clear that if a youth has been out of school for 15 months, perhaps for two years, he was not part of the labour force for three years. I discussed the matter with professors, with counsellors who are not connected with the manpower office, pointing out the fact that some candidates were required to have been out of school for three years, and all agreed that it was a misinterpretation of the act. This point should be made absolutely clear especially with the manpower officers, so that the youth who left school, either high school or any other, in the last 12 months, may be eligible because I think that he is best suited for such training. He is ready. He has interrupted his studies only 12 or 15 months ago, and he is ready to carry on either to improve his skill in the same line or to turn to something else.

I shall ask the minister, as did the hon. members of Ontario (Mr. Starr) and Greenwood (Mr. Brewin), to clear up the matter and to give us his interpretation, so that we may advise at least those who write to us and who ask us what to do in such and such a case.

I mentioned earlier that I had been a little surprised with regard to the reduction in the appropriations in the farm section. I was going to urge the minister to increase that amount since he has probably received requests from the C.F.U. and every other farm organization in an effort to step up and increase the number of those training courses available to the farmers.

Now, I believe that what is most needed today, especially in my area but also in many areas of the province of Quebec, is the training of our young farmers and even those not so young, because in those areas, in 75 per cent of the cases—and the minister knows this very well—we have some mixed farming. Farming is carried on in an amateurish way and that is the reason why today we are short of truly qualified people in the agricultural field.

But we have, especially among the younger generation, a large group of people who want to take up farming on a full time basis, who are one hundred per cent farmers, and I believe that these courses are well designed to help these people. And I can assure you,

[Mr. Gauthier.]

Mr. Chairman, that this winter we will have them again—I was told that there would be some in my area—but here again we will be short of qualified instructors to train all those farmers. I am aware that this may lie outside the minister's area of responsibility. However, surely the minister can investigate the matter and use his influence or at least help farm agencies to secure the teaching staff and facilities required for these courses.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I have but a few words to say about immigration. Again, I think that the amendments brought to the Immigration Act will benefit the Canadian people as a whole including the people of Quebec, because, on the primary basis of skills and regional needs of qualified manpower as indicated by the minister, I am sure that we will admit to Canada immigrants that will represent to us not just additional mouths to feed, but real assets, in brief, individuals who will actively participate in the progress and development of Canada.

As for the former conditions about the age, competence and relationship for the arrangements concerning employment, I think that we Quebecers cannot very much criticize the minister. The only criticism we could make concerns discrimination. The hon. member for Greenwood referred to that a while ago when he said that there was some discrimination in the department of immigration. And what has always surprised me, as it must surprise the minister, is the fact that some discrimination is made in the case of applicants for citizenship.

If we want to work to establish unity in Canada, the two founding peoples of Canada should at least be on an equal footing.

One thing has always staggered me, and that is the fact that a British immigrant coming from England obtains his citizenship after two years, whereas someone coming from France or another country obtains it only after five years.

I may be wrong—let the minister correct me; I see him nodding his head now—but that is what I have always been told. As we are here to get information, I should like the minister to dot the i's. Personally, I should be pleased if that discrimination did not exist because that is what I have been told repeatedly. I promised myself I would, at the first opportunity, ask the minister to tell us what the facts are.

In conclusion, we are quite pleased in general with the estimates of the minister this