

Mr. BOYS: The minister will not say there is any money in carrying people over and then carrying them back without charge.

Mr. MILLAR: It has been stated that the immigrants receive a medical examination by doctors representing the steamship companies. Do they receive a medical examination from anyone representing the government before they go on board ship?

Mr. ROBB: No.

Mr. SPENCER: Is there any medical examination made on the other side?

Mr. ROBB: Not by Canadian officials.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Nobody wants to see something that is obviously unjust in a law, no matter whether the injustice extends to \$100 or to \$10,000. If you get a law the principle of which is wrong you are bound to have gross injustices coming out of it and consequently discontent. There is nothing in the law as it has stood that is in the slightest degree unjust. The principle is sound; you can understand it. But something like this is sure to come, perhaps in dozens of cases. A man comes across. He is inspected by the company before he gets on, and everything is all right. He lands, and that is all right. He is not a poor man; he is well off. But perhaps some report has reached Canada that he is an anarchist or that he is of a class that we should not admit to Canada, for some reason. He passes his medical examination on arrival, but he is detained on account of this report, perhaps two, three or four months. It is found that the report is false. But in the meantime the man takes seriously ill, perhaps with smallpox. Who has to pay the expense? According to this bill the minister says the company has to pay it, and the man never has to repay the company.

Mr. ROBB: I am afraid my hon. friend is building up an impossible case. He would not be detained if he passed the medical and civil examinations.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I did not say that at all. I say he did not pass the civil examination; that he is detained on account of a report that he belongs to an objectionable class. He is detained because of a report that he belongs to some class that should not come in, say the anarchist class. He is detained two months pending investigation of that report, and in those two months he takes an illness that results in large medical fees. He is quite able to pay them, and this government passes a law which says that the company which brought him over has to pay.

Mr. ROBB: I never heard of such a case.

Mr. POWER: Are the transportation companies supposed to make the civil examination over there?

Mr. MEIGHEN: No, we make it.

Mr. POWER: On the other side?

Mr. MEIGHEN: An examination into the qualifications altogether? I presume they do, and if they make a mistake they have to pay for it, and that is right, but where pending investigation on our own account, after we have passed him medically, when we are holding him for our own purpose and he takes ill—I am taking an extreme case, but there will be piles of them in between—though he is entirely able to pay for his illness—

Mr. POWER: I understand what the hon. member means, and I think there is a good deal in it, but what I want to know is this: Is it not the duty of the transportation company, before allowing any passenger to embark, to be sure that he fulfils all the civil qualifications? I am not discussing medical requirements.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I think so.

Mr. POWER: Then would not the transportation company be responsible for allowing a person who was an anarchist or a suspected anarchist to come to Canada?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I agree that they should.

Mr. POWER: Then they have committed a certain negligence if they allow an anarchist or a suspected anarchist to come here, have they not?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I do not say suspected, no. If, as a matter of fact, they have done everything they could, have absolutely complied with everything, and not the slightest criticism of any kind can be levelled against them, if the man is all right and the department's information turns out to be wrong, if it turns out also that the man can pay his own medical fees, in the name of all common sense why should we pass a law that says the company has to pay them?

Mr. POWER: I agree, if such a case is possible.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Does my hon. friend infer that if the man passes the medical examination and is detained for some other purpose, the cost falls on the company?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Certainly, that is the whole clause.