

Establishment of Immigration Appeal Board
tribunal to be set up will simplify these matters some advantage will undoubtedly attach to it. From time to time, as things are, undesirable people are able to enter this country while others who are likely to make good, honest citizens meet with a great deal of difficulty.

I know of one case in Ottawa which has been dragging on for three years. A Canadian citizen got married in Italy and naturally wished to bring his wife over here. However, he was obliged to send her back to Italy and the matter is still not settled. Someone in the lady's family, a cardinal or an archbishop, I believe, is working on the case on the Italian side without any success. If a cardinal or an archbishop cannot do anything to change the minister's mind, what can I do about it? First of all, the department said the lady had tuberculosis, but after a long time it was found out that she did not. It is time the minister cut off the dead limbs in his department and began clearing out the brushwood so as to make the administration more practical and realistic.

I think the minister is to be congratulated on the effort he has made so far. There will still be shortcomings and loopholes in the act but these cannot all be remedied at one time. It is only through experience that we will learn what has to be amended and redrafted in better form. I am sure the bill will be useful in dealing with cases such as I have just mentioned, and the examples I have given are not isolated instances by any means.

No doubt there will be some hardship if those appealing these decisions have to pay legal fees but I suppose that on balance it will be cheaper than travelling to and from the home country and better than standing on the quayside waiting for someone to say they can come in or they must go back. A person who has found a sponsor in this country, what we call in French un parrain or une parraine, has someone to look after his interests, but the situation can be embarrassing for a person without such an advantage. For one thing, there is the language barrier in some cases. Then there is a whole series of procedures to be followed during which reliance is placed entirely upon the immigration officers who can be very quick about some things when it suits them and very slow about others, depending on the circumstances. They can find a multitude of reasons for delay if they want to—whether good or not, I do not know.

I have received a great many complaints from immigrants who have entered the country to become residents of my constituency.

[Mr. Langlois (Mégantic).]

They feel aggrieved about the way in which the Immigration Act is working at present and I trust that the bill before us will clarify many of these matters. If the new procedures do operate effectively the minister will be relieved of all the knocking on his door that now goes on and the members of parliament will in turn be relieved of the pressures now placed upon them in this area. If some solution is not found, all these problems will end up in the minister's office.

● (6:10 p.m.)

I should like to hear from the minister about the man who entered this country to begin teaching here. I trust there will be no record against him since what he did was, in my opinion, done unknowingly or at least unwittingly. It was the official of the department who actually caused the whole problem by getting him to sign a whole lot of papers whose fine print he did not read. He found out later that by signing these papers he had admitted entering the country under false pretences, which was not the case. He made very strong representations to me. Finally I went to the minister and asked him to look into the matter, after which I heard nothing more. I believe that person is still in the country working as a teacher. I gather that a decision will be taken in June. I do not understand what the purpose is in ordering the expulsion of a man and then allowing him to stay. I think the minister should be able to give us an explanation. I hope that the new appeal board will be able to solve these problems.

[Translation]

Mr. J.-A. Mongrain (Trois-Rivières): Mr. Speaker, listening to the speeches made over the last few days on the last four bills considered, I could not help thinking as an independent member—if you will allow me this digression—that there is a new climate in the house.

We started our proceedings last year in a climate of distemper and some days, we heard more partisan speeches than objective discussions, to such an extent that after a few months, the press started some kind of discriminatory campaign against this parliament. However, if the reporters have followed our deliberations in the last few months, particularly in the last few weeks, they undoubtedly noticed that there is truly a new climate since the discussions are held on what I might call a high level. Objections, or rather interventions, are objective and I think it is very