

member for Broadview referred were eighteen students who had lived in England for several years before being sent to Canada in July, 1940; I think some of them were undergraduates of Oxford or Cambridge. They came to Canada in a general round-up of aliens in the United Kingdom in 1940. In order to make sure of catching the few aliens whom it might prove unsafe to have at large, practically all aliens from Germany and Austria were corralled and sent to Canada from the United Kingdom. When time permitted, their cases were investigated, and many were found conclusively to be harmless. The home office sent a representative, Mr. Paterson, out here in November, 1940, and he checked all the records. Then his duties were assumed by Lieutenant-Colonel Fordham, and Mr. Paterson returned. Then it was decided after an investigation of the cases in conjunction with the home office—we were really holding them as a result of the home office having sent them to us—that it would be better to allow these undergraduates to continue with their studies in Canada rather than to waste valuable years behind barbed wire. The original plan was to permit one hundred of them to go to Canadian universities. Their records were closely scanned by the home office, the commissioner of refugee camps, the director of immigration and their respective staffs. Each individual's history was thus scrutinized by three sets of officials.

A responsible sponsor, residing in Canada, came forward for every student released for the purpose of attending a Canadian university. The sponsor had to be a reputable citizen possessed of assets, who would undertake to guarantee the cost of maintenance and the tuition fees of a student. This was to prevent a student from becoming a public charge. The sponsors were usually found through the agencies of a voluntary organization known as the central committee for interned refugees. Every sponsor had to meet with the approval of Mr. Blair, director of immigration.

This plan was put into effect in the late summer of 1941 and has worked successfully. The students involved have given neither the commissioner of refugee camps nor the director of immigration any trouble at all, and in most instances have done exceedingly well in their studies. There are two students in the school of law, university of Toronto, who are said by their professor to be two of the most brilliant he has ever had. All are hard working. There are released refugees at ten universities in Canada, including Toronto university, and all have given the utmost satisfaction. There is one exception, because a case came to my attention the other day where a student had

not given the utmost satisfaction and the necessary action is being taken. That is the only case I have had come before me.

Mr. GRAYDON: What does the minister mean by not having given utmost satisfaction?

Mr. RALSTON: His conduct was entirely unsatisfactory; there was nothing in the way of subversive tendencies. His character was not of the best. Some of these men have brothers and other close relatives serving in the British army and navy. That is the statement. I have received strong letters, particularly from British Columbia, about this matter. There were considerable protests over the episode. I think that is what my hon. friend has in mind.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): There is still a question in the people's minds which the minister has not answered. The argument they advance from time to time is a fairly logical one. They contend that these people must be opposed to the Hitler regime, or they would not be released. If they are opposed to the Hitler regime, then they should be making some contribution toward defeating Hitler. We require our own young men to leave their educational pursuits or whatever else they are doing in order to make some contribution, either in the armed services, on the farm, in our munitions factories or wherever else they may be placed. Is there not the same obligation devolving upon these young men? Can they be placed in the armed forces? If not, the people should be told why. If they can, why are they not there? Is there something more useful that they can do? Can they be used on the farms? These are the questions that are being put, and they are the questions contained in a number of letters I have received. Are these 230 young men in our universities scientists who it is felt will be able, when they complete their courses, to make some contribution as a result of the education they may receive? Or are they merely being allowed to finish their education because there is no other way in which they can render a service to the common cause?

Mr. ADAMSON: Have any of them offered to enlist in the army?

Mr. RALSTON: I have not heard of any.

Mr. BOUCHER: The hon. member for Weyburn has expressed one viewpoint in this connection, but there is another angle to this matter. Our own boys have been limited in the education they may receive or in other activities and have been forced to undertake war duties, whether it be in the armed forces, in industry, in private business or otherwise.