

we handled them with dispatch. In 1911, a total of 286,839 came into this country; in 1912 they totalled 331,288; in 1913, 400,870; and in 1914 almost 250,000. Who will say that Canada is not up to such an effort today? Any country that built up the great organization that we did in the war, that sent half a million men overseas and brought them back again, cannot possibly bog down on this task. There is no shortage of help. We trained thousands of men during the war to examine and move whole divisions of men half-way across the world. This personnel, trained in military operations and UNRRA work, is available today and is waiting to tackle the job. We have only to give them the word to go ahead.

There is no shortage of ships. I have here a copy of a Canadian Press dispatch, dated London, February 25, 1947, quoting Foreign Secretary Bevin's report to the British House of Commons on the plight of displaced persons. This is what Mr. Bevin had to say about shipping:

Foreign Secretary Bevin told the House of Commons today that there are 1,000,000 displaced persons on the continent.

He said he had suggested that all countries take a proportion and "end this miserable state of affairs," but no one wanted these people.

"I will not mention names but one great statesman in the British commonwealth came and gave me a lecture on this problem. I said to him, 'How many will you take, I will get a ship and send them tomorrow.'"

"But," said Bevin, "the statesman didn't take one."

I wish to make it clear to the house that that reference is not to the Prime Minister of this country. Here are Bevin's boats that are available merely for the asking. There is no shortage of ships, and even if there were, this matter should have the highest priority. Everything depends upon the will to do it and upon organization. The nation with the best organized and most efficient immigration scheme will leave the others behind.

Then we come to the shortage of housing. A number of years ago when we first opened the debate in this house on post-war immigration this argument for going slow was advanced. We had to bring back the soldiers first and the soldiers' wives and dependents, and we all agreed that they should have first priority. So we waited and some 50,000 families of ex-service men came and were absorbed into our economy and were most welcome. We must now tackle the refugee problem. Our answer cannot be that of the Mad Hatter in "Alice in Wonderland" when he cried "No room, no room"; for, as Alice very properly replied: "Nonsense; there is plenty of room." To begin with, five to ten thousand displaced persons with relatives here

will be absorbed into the family circle; they will be taken into the homes without aggravating the present situation. Nor do the orphan children present much of a problem. Certainly room will be found. As for others, how can we honestly say to them, "We have not much room for you," when they have no room at all? The little we can share with them is infinitely better than the nothing they have at the present time.

The house must not forget that every displaced person brings with him one mouth and two hands, and he, too, can create. In the past we have used the need for reestablishing soldiers and their dependents as a reason for allowing no new immigration; but now the housing shortage is being used as an excuse for sloughing responsibility. We can never justify failure on this basis. If this is to be government policy, then I begin to believe in the impossible and the incredible, but I do not believe it is government policy.

As people who solved the tremendous organizational problems of war, who built up side by side a great double economy of industry and agriculture, who controlled our economic life in the midst of world-wide inflation and confusion, surely we are not going to be fazed by a problem like this. One thing is crystal clear. Canada cannot afford to act like a nation of "Richards". It does not become us. This is no time for slow halting steps. We have to open that door now.

There is one thing I wish to emphasize strongly. The settlement of displaced persons is not an immigration policy. It is a strictly limited short-term humanitarian aim arising out of our obligation and desire to help the war-stricken peoples of Europe. We are faced with the problem of resocializing our share of a million human beings who have been deprived of affection, stability and the freedom to live normal lives. Since the end of the war we have shipped our old clothes and surplus food, but that is not enough. A great work of group therapy and social rehabilitation lies ahead, and Canada, as one of the united nations, is called upon to give them an opportunity to rise above this present useless, hopeless existence and build a new life with freedom and dignity, and to take their place amongst the nations that want them.

We owe it to their relatives here. They are Canadians and they feel a responsibility to their own blood and kin overseas. If we give them the chance to help their own, the new Canadians will appreciate that far more from the government than we shall a tax reduction if the house can believe that. This thing is vital to them; they feel that they