

*Supply—Immigration*

An hon. MEMBER: Even that was better than fighting.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: As I understand, they were given a guarantee when they came to this country that they would not have to fight.

An hon. MEMBER: That is wrong.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: I may be wrong, but at any rate I do not want to take up the time of the committee in arguing the matter. I claim that the man who comes to this country in a sheepskin coat is better than the man who comes to this country wearing gloves and a white collar. Go to the city of Winnipeg during harvest time, go to the employment offices there, run, I think, by the provincial government in conjunction with the federal authorities, and if you want men to work on your farm it is the men who have worn sheepskin coats that will respond to the demand; the others professing to seek for employment do not want to work on the farm at all. The man who lives on the prairie in the winter time needs a sheepskin coat, and I may say that I wear one myself in the winter season.

Mr. EVANS: In the West we have hordes of foreigners who have settled in colonies. Many of these have made excellent settlers. I have in mind, in particular, the Galician who is ambitious from the start, from the very time he landed in this country, to become a good Canadian. The Galicians, I believe, are making good, but at the present time, particularly since the war, we have a class of people out there who are not content with our form of government and there are foreigners there to-day from the south-eastern part of Europe, foreigners settled in colonies, who are continually advocating Sovietism. I, for one, would certainly protest against letting the gates down and admitting, without any restriction, foreigners in large numbers to settle in colonies amongst us. I certainly would urge the Minister of Immigration to use every care in the selection of immigrants. I have read with interest Sir Clifford Sifton's scheme of immigration, but from what I can see his plan for settling our lands would amount to a system of slavery and I protest against bringing the calling of the agriculturist down to that level. I say, however, that those people who will not allow themselves to be assimilated and will not assume the duties and responsibilities of full Canadian citizenship should be debarred from entering this country.

[Mr. Beaubien.]

Mr. SUTHERLAND: I would like to ask the minister if the old custom of granting a bonus or subsidy to booking agents is to be revived under this vote? In years gone by a bonus was paid to booking agents in respect of desirable settlers whom they might secure, and I am not sure that the policy was not a very good one, because the booking agents are in a better position than even the agents of the government to judge as to the merits of prospective settlers. The bonus was paid only in the case of those who were going on the land or were domestic servants. The demand for domestic servants in this country to-day is possibly greater than it has been at any time in the past, and I would therefore like to know if there is any intention on the part of the government to revive the old custom referred to?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I have had no experience of booking agents, but on looking over the records of the department and discussing the matter with the immigration officials, I discovered that while there were a great many good agents, unfortunately there was a not inconsiderable number who took advantage of the system, and in fact were influenced in their efforts by the idea of number rather than quality.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): With regard to the question raised by the hon. member for South Oxford (Mr. Sutherland) I am in accord with some of his remarks. I am in accord with my hon. friend when he says that unemployment in this country is possibly due, to some extent, to the fact that many of those who are unemployed do not want to go to work on farms. Now, that is their own personal business, but I want to point out to the minister that if he enters upon a large scheme of immigration in order to bring farmers or farm labourers to this country he is probably going to have the condition of affairs pointed out by the hon. member for East Calgary (Mr. Irvine). I know my own district well and I know it will not give employment to anything like the same number of men during the winter months that it possibly does in the summer months. Therefore, you will have to find employment, to that extent, for these surplus men in winter. In this I agree with my hon. friend (Mr. Irvine), and I am very anxious that the Government should answer the question he asked as to whether or not they were prepared to assume the responsibility for the unemployment that may result next winter in consequence of this policy. I