

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

circumstances or he may not. It is a matter that aroused interest in western Ontario about a year ago or possibly a little longer. There were a great many reports in the newspaper at that time about German immigrants who were on farms, and about a large black car arriving, two or three people getting out and talking to the immigrant and the next day the immigrant had gone, lock, stock and barrel, or perhaps I should say bag and baggage.

**Mr. Harris:** I do not want to interrupt the hon. member, Mr. Chairman, but I think I can save him a great deal of time by saying that there was not a black car.

**Mr. Nesbitt:** Possibly it was a green one.

**Mr. Harris:** No. Just to settle the matter now, perhaps, and to save my hon. friend time, I might say this. All this difficulty arose because a black car with a Quebec licence, containing two immigrants, brother and uncle of the one in the hon. member's county, visited him on Sunday and he disappeared next day. The disappearance was blamed on this car.

**Mr. Nesbitt:** I am glad to hear that the minister has looked into the case and has investigated it. I am glad that is the explanation the minister received. However, I have had another explanation presented to me. Briefly it was as follows. Perhaps the minister would care to make a comment. I was told this as to a number of German immigrants who, I understand, had their passages assisted by the government on condition that they remain as agricultural labourers until such time as their passage is paid back. A number of them came over in those circumstances. I was told that certain manufacturers in various parts of the country—I understand from the province of Quebec in the textile industry—approached these people and agreed to pay off the amount they owed the government if they would work under a certain contract of labour for a period of time. These immigrants are told that if they break this contract they will be sent home. The purpose of this is that a number of people from Germany who were supposed to be agricultural labourers and really are not, got over here and got into factories where they wished to work and certain manufacturers, I understand, in this way obtained cheaper labour. As I say, I have had this report from two or three sources which I believe to be reliable. I have no factual information. I should like to put it to the minister in the form of a question on which he may wish to comment.

[Mr. Nesbitt.]

The next thing I wish to mention is the matter of citizenship. I should like to make a few brief suggestions on the methods of presenting citizenship certificates at the present time. I fully realize that in the county courts at the present time—at least in some of them; I know it is done in our own county—a local judge makes a nice little speech to these people. If that procedure were followed out all through the country I am sure it would be highly satisfactory. When people who come to this country receive their citizenship certificates, I think the duties and responsibilities of citizenship should be impressed upon them to a little bit greater extent than is done at the present time. I just throw this out as a suggestion. The minister might, once a year, make a tour through the country and appear at a number of places—or, if owing to his duties he was unable to do so, the chief justice of each province could do something similar—and present the new citizens with their certificates of citizenship and give them a brief address at the time, or possibly a not so brief address, on the duties and responsibilities of citizenship in this country. At the same time possibly a booklet could be issued on the Canadian way of life, and everyman's edition of our constitution and form of government. I think that would be a good suggestion because when these people get their certificates mailed to them, that fact fails to impress upon them the duties of Canadian citizenship. I think that a little bit more solemnity in the matter would probably be of considerable benefit.

I have two further brief remarks to make. The first is on the national gallery. I think the national gallery of Canada is doing a particularly fine job. They have a fine collection of paintings, particularly Canadian paintings. I should like to see more of the money that is spent on paintings spent on Canadian paintings. Among the paintings there is a collection of paintings by one of our first painters, namely Cornelius Kreighoff. The Tom Thomson collection is very good. If it were possible to get more of them, I think it would be better. When people from other countries come to the national gallery here, they want to see evidence of Canadian culture. While the evidence there is very good at the present time, nevertheless I think there should be more. If large sums of money are to be spent on the acquisition of oil paintings, I think at least a large proportion of it should go for Canadian paintings.

The reason I mention this matter is that I recall the acquisition of five paintings by certain European artists for the sum of