

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

region of the United Kingdom, yet its immigration capacity is infinitesimal compared with that of Canada. And London has really far fewer geographical foundations for industry than many undeveloped ore fields of Canada. London has to fetch all raw material from a distance. The only irresistible attraction she offers to industry is the paradoxical one of a gigantic market consisting of a population who live chiefly by taking in each other's washing. That shows you can attract industry merely by dumping population—and capital, be it tirelessly repeated—in a readily accessible spot.

Canada abounds in accessible spots. The Romans, with their eye for nodality, could have picked out hundreds of first-class sites for towns in Canada, had they ever got the chance. We could surely do something of what they did when Britain was virgin soil, and of what Russia, but recently a primitive illiteracy, is now doing to open up vast tracts far less hospitable than are latitudes 50° to 60° in North America.

Then he goes on to say:

I stress the need for new towns in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and elsewhere, because merely to group fresh population round the existing markets of Montreal, Quebec and Toronto would be to repeat the elephantiasis of London. Ultimately Canada would not thank us for that. We have no right to batten on what the Canadians have already created for themselves. There are enough fresh sites and fresh opportunities for us to settle down beside the Canadians and not on top of them.

It has already been said that the large-scale migration of British Islanders to Canada would not tremendously increase the agricultural production of the dominion, because the majority of the immigrants would not and could not work on the farms. The chief effect on the Canadian farmer would therefore be to bring his market nearer to him—against which process he ought not to object.

That sums up the views I have been trying to place before the committee. I make these suggestions merely that they may serve as the basis for further thought with respect to the great and thorny problem of migration from the overpopulated areas of the world to the underpopulated.

Mr. Bater: I know the minister is quite anxious to be getting along with his estimates and I do not intend to take very much time with my remarks, but only once in going through life do we celebrate a fiftieth anniversary of almost anything, whether it be our birthday or our marriage. I have been listening this afternoon and I have heard the words "emigration" and "immigration" several times. It recalls to my mind that on the 31st day of March, 1903, I became an emigrant when I sailed from Liverpool and on the 12th of April following I became an immigrant when we landed at Saint John, New Brunswick.

I want to take this opportunity of thanking the minister and the officials of his department for procuring for me a photostatic copy of the passenger list of the S.S. *Lake Manitoba* which sailed from Liverpool on March 31, 1903 and arrived at Saint John,

New Brunswick, on April 12, 1903. On page 20 of the list there are three names among many others. The first of the three I am going to mention is William Bater, age 39, tobacconist. That was my father. The next is Master Bater, age 14, my brother, who is still farming in the district where I farm. The next one is Master Bater, age 11, who happens to be myself.

I promised that I would only be a short time, but before sitting down I should like to read an extract from the *Montreal Gazette* of April 12, 1903. The dispatch is from Saint John, New Brunswick, and reads as follows:

Four special trains, carrying the Barr colonists, numbering 1,960, left here today for the Saskatoon district, where the new Canadians will establish homes and cities. The party, which is declared to be the greatest emigration from England since the departure of William Penn, arrived Saturday morning on the steamship *Lake Manitoba*, whose cargo of humanity was packed like fish in a box. The colonists bring with them half a million pounds sterling. They are probably the finest body of men, women and children that ever landed here. Lawyers, doctors, clergymen, merchants, aristocrats, farmers, clerks, artisans, domestics, tradeswomen and labourers are included, besides babies by the score. On the passage, which occupied eleven days, there was not a death or a case of serious illness on the congested ship. Reverend I. M. Barr, the organizer of the party, is a brisk businesslike man who is full of enthusiasm over the prospects of his scheme. He says 1,500 more colonists are to follow, and that 10,000 will come next year.

With respect to the last two words "next year", that never did come about so far as the Reverend Mr. Barr was concerned because he left very shortly after reaching Saskatoon. As you know, many of the colonists rebelled against him and the colony was taken over by the Reverend Mr. Lloyd after whom the town of Lloydminster was named. This summer at Lloydminster, which is a great oil town on the border between Alberta and Saskatchewan, a celebration is going to be held in connection with the fiftieth anniversary of the Barr colony. It was in the district surrounding Lloydminster that the government along with the Reverend Mr. Barr and Mr. Lloyd had picked out a certain number of homesteads to be taken up by the Barr colonists. I have no doubt that the hon. member for Battle River and myself will be playing a small part in that celebration this summer.

Much has been said about immigrants coming to Canada. Last summer on our farm we employed a young couple who had come to Canada some two years ago through the minister's department. The young man was accustomed to farming in Great Britain. He had served his time in the British navy in the last war, and he brought his young wife and child with him. He spent his first year on a farm just north of Toronto and