

Supply—Immigration

There is another point in this connection that I want to mention. On page 9 of the report reference is made to the number of applications received by the various organizations and the number of children sent out by them. I draw the attention of the minister to the fact that whereas the Salvation Army received 2,560 applications, it sent out 464 children; but the British Immigration Aid and Colonization Association received 479 applications and sent out 446 boys. Why is that? As a matter of fact I know because I had a great deal to do with this organization starting along this line of juvenile immigration. The reason is this, and I commend it to the attention of the minister. From the time that society started to operate it laid down the principle that not a boy—they do not bring any other than boys of teen age—should be placed on board vessel at Glasgow or Liverpool until he had a place to go to when he arrived in Canada. There was nothing haphazard about the association's plan at all. It has worked out surprisingly well. May I add that the plan inaugurated by this particular association so impressed Premier Ferguson that he has instituted a juvenile movement through the provincial farm at Guelph. I believe the premiers of the other provinces as well as the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Canadian National Railway are convinced that the juvenile movement is one of the very best that we can encourage to bring young immigrants to this country. I think it is the best, for two main reasons; many others could be given. First, we should encourage to the limit the bringing of boys of teen age from the old country because such boys, according to statistics, show a higher percentage of literacy than our native-born Canadians, and such ideas as they have learned in the mother country, of government and civil institutions are the same as ours. So there is no trouble whatever to Canadianize those boys. And they speak our language. The second reason is that probably all over the Dominion, certainly throughout Ontario and Quebec and the prairie provinces, thousands of our farmers are in need of help, and for lack of it their farms are not producing to anything like their full capacity; they cannot afford to hire a married man, and give him a wage sufficient to maintain himself and his family; and consequently they are very anxious indeed to get these boy immigrants. In a word, the movement works well from the standpoint of the farmers to get them much needed help, and from the standpoint of the boys to get them farm jobs. If there is anything like proper supervision of

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the boys after they go on the farms I believe that practically all of them will make good in the future as they have in the past.

As I said before, I think the Minister of Immigration has adopted rather a harsh attitude towards the Salvation Army. That organization has been bringing out the class of boys that the farmers of this country are asking for. I believe that every boy brought out by the army has cost it between \$70 and \$80 after taking into consideration the government grants, for the army authorities inform me that before bringing a boy to Canada they have to look after him for a period varying from six to twelve weeks. I do not regard it as a handicap to such boys to enter into an arrangement with the Salvation Army to pay back a certain amount of money to assist the army in continuing their work. I repeat, I do not agree with the policy which the minister is pursuing in regard to the Salvation Army. And we are not carrying out that policy all along the line. As I said before, immigrants from continental Europe are handed a certain amount of money by immigration agencies to enable them to prove that they are not entering the country as paupers. That money they have to pay back to the organization with, I believe, a considerable addition in the way of profit, and that money is turned over again to bring out more immigrants. If it is a handicap to the boy to have an arrangement with the Salvation Army to pay back \$70 or \$80, then logically it must be equally a handicap to the class of immigrants I have referred to to pay a large percentage of profit or a commission to the immigration organization that advances the money to enable them to comply with our regulations. Having regard to the work which has been done by the Salvation Army and similar organizations in bringing out boys to this country, and in view of the report of the inspectors as found at page 9, showing the percentage who are making progress, good, fair and poor, the character and behaviour of the boys, and so forth, I say that this line of immigration is one that commends itself strongly to me. The minister has admitted that there are operating in Canada and the United States some twenty-eight clerics of one denomination engaged, as he says, in the work of repatriation; that is to say, I suppose, they are engaged in trying to induce French Canadians who have gone to the United States to return to Canada. That is a commendable work, although I am doubtful whether these clerics devote all their time across the line to bringing French Canadians back into Can-