

*Supply—Immigration*

"When the natural resources of Canada are free from monopolistic control and all willing to work are assured of the opportunity to do so, then will be time enough to consider freer immigration policies. The present policy is only an aid to those desiring to get rich quick through the method of labor exploitation and is detrimental to the interests of both the workers in Canada, and those being falsely led to believe that prosperity and opportunity abound for all in this country. The future of Canada demands that immigrants shall not be subject to disillusionment but on the contrary shall find conditions all that they were led to believe. It is only in this way that a contented and prosperous citizenship may be acquired. Any other method leads ultimately to discontent, unrest and revolt and surely the experience of the past few years should be sufficient warning against the adoption of policies so detrimental to the future of our country."

This is the conclusion of Mr. Tom Moore, president of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, in an article on Immigration to appear in the June Canadian Congress Journal.

Mr. Moore condemns the Government policy which he says has opened the flood gates and made the way easy for all and sundry to flock to Canada. The new policy will allow an almost unlimited flow of cheap labor for farms and industries, he points out, and it practically means the wages and standards of living of Canadian workers will be fixed in Europe.

Then Mr. Moore's words are again quoted as follows:

"It is assumed that any one swearing he or she is a legitimate farm worker or domestic servant, or that they have reasonable chance of employment, will have little trouble entering the country," Mr. Moore writes.

"In a recent advertisement of a booking agency, claiming to be one of the official agents of certain Canadian shipping and transportation companies, the following paragraph appears: 'We can make all the necessary arrangement to bring out your passenger. Save you money in passage fare and save your passenger inconvenience with the immigration officials. All affidavits made are free.' What a wonderful inference as to how little trouble will be experienced if experts at drawing up affidavits to comply with the regulations are allowed to book the passage of the prospective emigrant.

"The purpose of immigration restrictions should be to protect those already here, and protect against exploitation and unnecessary hardship the workers of other countries who contemplate emigrating."

That is rather a pointed article, and, if the conditions which exist in regard to immigrants seeking to come to Canada are as loose as indicated in that article, I think more stringent methods should be employed. If the basis of that article is correct, all a man has to do is to go to some shipping agent and make a formal affidavit, one of those documents prepared by a shipping agent. In nine cases out of ten, probably, the affidavit is not read over to the man, and he may not understand the language. If that is the only requirement,

[Mr. Guthrie.]

I submit it is not sufficient. No doubt there is a good deal of foundation for Mr. Moore's complaint. A good many people come into Canada ostensibly as farm labourers who are not farm labourers, never were, and on reaching Canada they disavow any intention of ever becoming farmers. I do not know that it is possible to devise a method by which you can exclude all such, but, I think, if more stringent rules were adopted, many who now come in breach of the regulations might be excluded. My object is to call the attention of the minister to this article, because if more stringent regulations should be put in force, let us enact them. We do not want in this country, at this time, a stream of immigration to our cities and towns, to further congest the labour market.

Mr. MANION: A statement has been made to me, of the truth of which I know nothing, that out in the western provinces, at the present time, the department are employing certain labourers to work for them temporarily, I do not know in what capacity. It was claimed that these men were employed, say, for six months, then let out for a short time, and re-employed, the purpose being to get round the Civil Service Act. This statement was made to me, and I am presenting it to the minister, to have him deny it, if it is false, or to otherwise comment upon it, if he wishes.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Under the Civil Service Act, we have the privilege of employing men temporarily for three months. I think, to a limited degree, that can be carried on, the idea being that it is purely temporary. If the employment continues for a longer period, these men must of necessity pass the examinations and become permanent employees. We have had cases of that kind, in one or two instances, but to a very limited degree. I desire to say frankly that it is a very considerable handicap in the Department of Immigration, where they have a fluctuating service and might want a few people for a few months, to have to wait for the slow process of getting them on the permanent staff. The same thing is true of the Northwest Territories. Hon. members will notice that I have a bill on the Order Paper, to provide for a little leniency in respect of the employment of officials who are thousands of miles away, in the North country. However, I think the Civil Service Commission