

admit 500,000 displaced persons to relieve her manpower shortage. I should like to quote from the *Montreal Gazette* of today:

The admission of a half million displaced persons to relieve Britain's manpower shortage has been agreed upon by the ministry of labour and the trades union congress, it has been learned.

As a result of continuous pressure by the cabinet, faced with accumulating evidence of Britain's deteriorating economic position, union leaders are understood to have agreed under two conditions to a drastic move to break the vicious circle of shortages. The first is that the immigrants shall become subject to union rules and standards. The second is that the immigrants shall be selected individually on a basis of their skills and general suitability for Britain's most seriously undermanned industries—coal, foundries, textiles and agriculture.

Britain, the Argentine and Brazil already have missions in Europe weeding out the displaced persons. They are stealing a march on us and we are going to be left holding the bag. Let us not deceive ourselves; Canada must take a stand in this matter and it must be a realistic stand. On the basis of the room available and on the basis of our strong economy, we shall probably have to take into this country a minimum of 100,000 displaced persons. If they are picked, they will strengthen rather than weaken our economy. Until the present, we have gone along with the united nations, agreeing in principle with the united nations. We now stand committed to the fullest possible participation, a participation which we accepted as part of our responsibility to the world. But words only have been spoken and now the time has come for us to take some action.

As I said, we shall probably be called upon to take a minimum of 100,000 displaced persons. Rather than sit back and take what they give us, let us go in now and choose and take as Britain, the Argentine and Brazil are doing. Let us send our teams into these European camps without delay. If we wait we shall be left with the leavings, and that might well give immigration into this country a set-back from which it will never recover. We are ready to take our fair share numerically of displaced persons, but we want the very best we can get. First come, first served, seems to be the order of the day according to the announcement in the press.

Whom shall we take? First of all, there are those with relatives in Canada. Under present regulations these would number at most 2,000. But our test must not be whether they come within the present narrow regulations. The test should be: Has the displaced person relatives in Canada and have the relatives asked for him? We must be careful not to break up family groups. Those people who

[Mr. Croll.]

have relatives in Canada already have one foot in this country. They have someone here to speak for them, to welcome them and to look after them. They will assimilate quickly and will readily be absorbed into the Canadian stream.

Next come the children. On several occasions during the war the question of bringing orphaned children to Canada was broached and the response from the country at large was immediate and good. We showed what we could do in a small way with the British war guests, and I am confident that Canadians will open their homes and their hearts to the orphaned children of Europe whose lives have been shattered before they have scarcely begun. I know they will find among us foster homes where they will become workers and citizens in a society that needs them as much as they need it.

Next come the kind of people we want; that is, the workers, the same kind of people Britain wants. At the present time we can certainly use 5,000 domestics, and they are available. Mining, agriculture, textiles and other industries are all desperately in need of man-power. We are faced with the opportunity to do two great and inspiring things: help the homeless of Europe and help ourselves at the same time. It is a challenge which we must meet boldly.

I see the problem as being one primarily of organization. We must send our immigration teams to Europe at once with instructions to go ahead at full speed and with the fullest support from the government agencies concerned. This is not the time for administrative delays or departmental complexities. We are faced with an emergent situation which calls for the same bold planning we threw into our war effort. Present facilities patterned on our pre-war set-up are inadequate for the task. We must set up a large efficient immigrant processing department with ample powers. There will be labour department officials to designate what kind of people we want and where they can best be employed. There will be a medical group to examine refugees on the spot, including the use of X-rays. There will be an administrative group to screen and document refugees and a transportation group to move them from the camps to Canada. There will be a reception group to receive them on arrival and distribute them to their destinations, and educational groups in the provinces must see them in Canadianism.

Let no one say that this cannot be done. Once before in our history, at the height of the great immigration boom before the first great war, new Canadians were landing on our shores at the rate of 1,000 a day and