

but so far neither our land values nor our business failures have so increased as to make it wise for us to close our doors against the hungry people of Europe. Furthermore, if instead of bringing in fifty or sixty or one hundred thousand people a year we brought in many more than that, the period when exactions consume profit will be deferred, not hastened. In that way we might keep business on a profitable basis longer than we otherwise could, and thus postpone the evil day.

There are one or two comments that I wish to make about immigrants themselves. In one of my early speeches on this subject I said that the best "immigrants" are those who are brought to us by the stork, and that sentiment was repeated yesterday by my honourable friend from Rigaud (Hon. Mr. Dupuis). There is no doubt that our own children make the best additions to our population. The next best are relatives of people already living and established here. That proposition is so obvious that after we had stated it three or four times in this house it was adopted by the government, and a category of near relatives admissible as immigrants was published. Immigration officials were authorized to admit people within that category, and as a result many thousands of fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, and some few nephews and nieces, have been brought to Canada. The experiment has shown that these newcomers have the highest prospects of becoming successful citizens, because they have the guidance of relatives already established here, who welcome them, see to it that they are properly housed and clothed, and, above all, advise them on how to make a living in this country. In some instances people here have even paid the transportation expenses of relatives living abroad who wished to become Canadians. Almost all the people who have been admitted within the category of near relatives have been absorbed into industry and have themselves made good.

But, honourable senators, the category of near relatives that I have enumerated—fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, nephews and nieces—is obviously limited by the number of relatives that Canadians have in Europe and other countries, and it is now nearly exhausted. It is true that over the years a few people of this class would continue to come in, but we cannot expect large numbers of such immigrants within the next two or three years. So it strikes me that it is time to revise the categories of persons admissible. Family relationships in Europe are very strong. A family is linked by iron bands, and its relationships are not limited to father and mother, brothers and sisters and the other relatives

that I have mentioned, but extend throughout the entire family connection. It does seem to me that if a Canadian citizen is prepared to pay the transportation expenses of, say, a cousin and family from Europe, and to guarantee that they will be housed and that he will take an interest in their welfare here, such immigrants would not be likely to become a public charge; and provided that they met the usual requirements as to health and good character, we would not be taking much chance in admitting them. I do feel the time has arrived when we should extend the category of near relatives so as to take in cousins. I would go even further and admit friends as immigrants, because it is far better to bring in a new Canadian citizen who is guaranteed by somebody already in Canada, than to bring in someone without friends to introduce them to our industrial and social life. For my part, I would be willing to pass regulations immediately extending immigration privileges to cousins of immigrants, and I would very seriously consider the possibility of extending it to friends. To my mind such people would make good citizens, the kind most likely to succeed and most unlikely to leave or get into trouble with our laws:

Those are my only two observations. First, I should like to see our present immigration policy maintained as long as reasonably possible; and I hope that the warnings of industrial disaster will not interfere with that policy. Second, I would admit cousins at once, and then friends.

I think the members of the committee charged with the job of inquiring into the Immigration Act will do a great service to Canada if they discuss the problems on this elementary basis.

The motion was agreed to.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Senate resumed from yesterday, the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the session, and the motion of Hon. Mr. Golding for an Address in reply thereto.

Hon. Cyrille Vaillancourt: Honourable senators, I am pleased to associate myself with the previous speakers and to congratulate both the mover (Hon. Mr. Golding) and the seconder (Hon. Mr. Veniot) of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. They performed their tasks in a realistic and objective manner, for which they deserve commendation.

The war has now been over for four years—at least that is what we are told—nevertheless, we live under a disquieting and nervous