

*Deportation Cases*

the intention of the police to employ those men who can be employed. However, there may be cases where no work can be given and it may happen that many men who have given good service to the crown will have to pass out of the service.

Mr. BRASSET: Will any provision be made for those who are not working?

Mr. RYCKMAN: I am sure that every consideration will be given to each particular case.

## DEPORTATION CASES

## ARRESTS AND PROCEEDINGS UNDER PROVISIONS OF IMMIGRATION ACT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Immigration (Mr. Gordon) when he will make a statement with regard to the arrest and threatened deportation of Daniel Holmes, Konrad Cessinger and Orton Wade of Winnipeg? There seems to be something curious about this case; a good deal is being made of it by the Winnipeg papers. I should like to know under whose authority these men were arrested and on what charge and where they are to be tried.

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Acting Minister of Immigration and Colonization): Mr. Speaker, I assume that the persons to whom reference has been made are persons being investigated under the provisions of the Immigration Act. Under this act a duty devolves upon the minister and the officers of the department to see that people in Canada who have no right to be here are investigated by a board of inquiry and their right to be in Canada reviewed. If it is found that they are undesirable and have no right to be here, or if for other reasons contemplated by the statute it seems that they should be returned to their country of origin, the appropriate steps are taken. There has been no change in the practice or policy of the department since I have had the honour of administering it, and the same practice has been followed for years. The provisions of the statute have not been changed in many years.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: If I may ask a supplementary question, the minister has really not answered my question. One of these men, I understand, has been some twenty years in Canada, and has a Canadian wife and children. The minister has not said by whose authority they were arrested or on

[Mr. Ryckman.]

what charges or where they are to be tried. In view of the circumstances I think he should give definite answers to these questions.

Mr. GORDON: These parties are being dealt with in just the same way as are any others whose cases might come under review within the scope of the legislation. They are not arrested in that sense of the word. They will come before a board of inquiry set up under the provisions of the act and be given full opportunity to make out their case before that board. If it is shown that the officers who investigated the cases are in error or the evidence upon which the proceedings were started cannot for some reason be relied upon, and if they make out their case, they will have no difficulty. On the other hand, if they are not conforming to Canadian laws, they will most certainly be dealt with as the act contemplates. My duty is to see that the statutes are fairly but justly enforced, and I propose to see that that duty is done in so far as I am able to do it.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: If I may press the matter—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The minister has not answered the question.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has put two questions to the minister and has received full and complete answers. The time of the house cannot be taken up in interrogations of the minister.

Mr. J. L. BROWN (Lisgar): May I ask a question of the minister and expect an answer? Where are these men to be tried? Are they to be tried at Halifax where they have been taken, or are they to be returned to Winnipeg where they will be given a chance of a fair trial?

Mr. BENNETT: That does not require an answer.

Mr. BROWN: I think I am entitled to an answer to that question. How can men be given a fair trial about two thousand miles away from where the alleged offence was committed and where they have no chance to arrange for a fair defence?

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): I understood the minister to say that the case was being reviewed. Would he indicate how it comes about that the case is being reviewed at Halifax rather than at Winnipeg?