

a homestead," they become absolutely dissatisfied. Let me ask my hon. friends who have gone through the homesteading experience in western Canada: Is it a good thing to take a stranger who has no money and place him with his wife and perhaps seven or eight children thirty or forty miles away on a prairie homestead? What earthly chance would he and his family have? I do not believe that that is the proper way to encourage people to come into this country. But there are others who hold the contrary view and say to these newcomers, "You should not take this load of indebtedness upon your shoulders, rather you should secure a grant of land."

We have been endeavouring to give these immigrants the best possible advice, we have placed at their disposal our officials, trained in the business of settling people on the land, and we are leaving no stone unturned to make them comfortable and happy. To be frank, when I heard that 416 souls were coming out together I had doubts about the advisability of so many coming in one party. I do not think they should come in parties of more than 25, which is about the size we can handle most satisfactorily. I do not wish it to be inferred that every new settler will be given the same personal assistance that we are giving to this particular body of immigrants, for I do not think the government could afford to do so, but inasmuch as I believe in what my hon. friend has said, that the best propagandist you can have is a satisfied settler, I have deemed it advisable to see that everything humanly possible should be done by our officials to settle these people comfortably and satisfactorily. Not only that, but I sent Mr. Black, the deputy minister of the department, to Red Deer in order that he might bring to me firsthand information of what is going on, although we are in daily communication with our officials who are already there. I have his wire, sent yesterday, in which he states:

Settlement Hebridean party proceeding satisfactorily.
Utmost assistance consistent with their ultimate welfare being given.

I expect to receive a detailed report from Mr. Black within the next day or two, but from what I have heard from Father Macdonell he expects to have every one of these people comfortably settled upon the land.

I do not say for a single moment that there are not some members of this party who have become dissatisfied. They are extremely desirous of settling in a solid community. I need only repeat what I have said on many other occasions, that I am not particularly favourable to such a settlement. I think a

man has a better chance of success if he will go in amongst people who know the country and how to take advantage of the local conditions. In this way newcomers quickly learn to adapt themselves to their new environment and are much better off among those already settled on the land than in a solid community of their own people where they are likely to be constantly meeting and discussing real or imaginary grievances, which has a tendency to make them dissatisfied with their new home. Our officials are endeavouring to settle these people in the way I have suggested and to settle them comfortably. True, these newcomers have not very much money, and I am well aware that they will have a somewhat trying time at the start, as all new settlers do; probably they will go through the same experience that many of us went through—many a night I slept under the wagon when I could not get to my house, and I did not have a very comfortable house at that—and I am not speaking of something I do not know anything about. But, unfortunately, if people are encouraged to think they are coming to a bed of roses, that everything is going to be made easy for them and that they will have no difficulties to overcome, there is bound to be trouble and disappointment.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I say most emphatically that nothing has been left undone in our efforts to help these people. We have kept constantly in touch with the situation. Some newspapers are prone to spread propaganda rather than take the trouble to investigate the facts. To say that we are not having difficulties would be a stretch of the imagination. Of course we are having difficulties, and I expect to have more, in fact we are bound to have difficulties as long as we are engaged in this work; but I have no apologies to make on behalf of the men in the Department of Immigration for the way in which they have handled the four hundred Hebridean immigrants to this country.

Mr. ROBERT FORKE (Brandon): Mr. Speaker, as a Scottish immigrant I may be allowed to engage in this discussion. Although I know very well that the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Speakman) is anxious for the welfare and prosperity of these immigrants, I was glad to see the minister (Mr. Stewart) reply with such vigour, because it may be that he has not been getting just exactly fair play. I quite agree with what he says as to the difficulties newcomers will have to surmount, the trials they will have to undergo and perhaps the heartaches they will have to suffer, before they succeed. But I am not saying this to