

Further on I find the following:

In so far as we have a fiscal problem, our task would appear to be that of readjusting, as necessity arises, our customs tariff schedules to meet new conditions, of removing inequalities where inquiry proves such to exist, of encouraging greater and more economical production of quality products, of assisting in the utilization of domestic resources and, other things being equal, of favouring those countries which favour our products. In applying these principles, availability of supplies, transportation costs, and the proximity of markets are factors which must be considered if all are to benefit and the Dominion prosper.

From this I gather, Mr. Speaker, that the government are considering the matters my hon. friend in his amendment asked them to consider. That fact, coupled with the fact that the subamendment is equivalent to a vote of want of confidence in the government, is sufficient reason why I should oppose the subamendment.

Mr. O. L. BOULANGER (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have this opportunity to take part in this debate, although there are many more experienced, more capable and wiser members of this house than I. It gives me an opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Finance (Mr. Robb) on the concise and convincing exposé of the wonderful condition of our country, due to the good administration of the Liberal party. It also gives me an opportunity to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, upon the success of your lectures at the University of Paris, and to thank you for the added glory you have brought this house and this country.

I am also glad of this opportunity to bring before the house a question which is very close to my heart; I refer to the conservation of our population. It is because I am so much interested in this matter I raise my voice in this debate to urge again upon the government as strongly and as solemnly as possible the desirability and advisability of giving a preference to our native sons in connection with the colonization of our vacant lands. Ever since I have been a member of this house I have tried to have this matter discussed. I brought forward a resolution during the short session of 1927 dealing with this question, but it was not reached before prorogation; last year my resolution was reached at five o'clock on a Wednesday afternoon and the house adjourned before anyone had time to give an opinion and before a decision could be reached. However, the idea has travelled; last year it was supported by a petition presented to the agriculture committee, signed by 125,000 people. It was supported by many societies and by a strong

section of the press, particularly the farm papers, and recently the idea was supported by the Canadian Council of Agriculture at their annual meeting which took place in Winnipeg on February 25 and 26 last. The resolution passed by that body was as follows:

Whereas statistics clearly prove that the financial rewards obtainable by people engaged in agriculture are on a lower scale than those enjoyed by people in any other useful occupation; and

Whereas, despite this condition the farmers, in common with other classes of our people are taxed to pay part of the passage money spent in bringing more people to engage in farming;

Be it resolved that this council call upon the Dominion government to abandon wholly the present policy of giving assisted passages to agricultural classes; and

Be it further resolved that any inducement that may be offered to immigrants be as freely offered to Canadians living in Canada and to former Canadians now living in the United States.

Just here I would like to direct the attention of the Minister of Immigration and Colonization (Mr. Forke) to what the newspapers have been stating for the last few days. They have pointed out that at present the United States are contemplating turning out of that country hundreds of thousands of Canadians who entered more or less illegally, and I would ask the minister to try to bring some of those Canadian citizens who are to be turned out of the United States back to Canada and settle them on our vacant lands. A short time ago I had the honour of expressing my views in this connection in Toronto, and I am glad to say those views were endorsed by no less a person than the mayor of that great city, Mr. McBride.

This question was discussed last year in the agriculture committee, which conducted an investigation into immigration matters, and the committee made two suggestions which may be considered steps in the right direction. The committee recommended that the homeseekers' transportation rates, which existed before the war, be restored and that assistance be given Canadian youths trained in agriculture. The first suggestion of the committee was put up to the railways, who replied through the Canadian Passenger Association under the pretext that all railways in Canada were concerned, although it is a well-known fact that all railways are included in the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian National systems. The reply was as follows:

Specially low fares for homeseekers from eastern to western Canada were inaugurated, as you will probably recollect, many years ago when it was difficult to secure settlers for the