

Immigration Act

passengers, nor proportionately more than freight rates. It is due to the general increased cost of operating a ship, higher wages, higher cost of coal, and everything else that goes into the operation of a ship.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I think the increase in this particular rate is out of line pretty nearly with everything.

Mr. ROBB: I admit the rate is high.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: We did have an increase of 50 per cent in our grain rates, and from Saskatoon 32 per cent—

Mr. ROBB: Those are rail rates.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Well, we will come back to the ocean. I was going to point out that those increases have disappeared. There is not the taxpayer to draw on in connection with decreases here as there is in connection with decreases in the rail rates. But however that may be, I do not think my hon. friend will find that other rates have multiplied in the same proportion as the rate on immigrants. In 1893, my recollection is that the rate was £3 10s. Now if people have to pay from £3-10 up to £16 it is easy to see there is quite an obstacle to immigration. I wonder if we could not use some of the boats of the merchant marine on their return passage to carry immigrants?

Mr. ROBB: I would not think so; my hon. friends opposite did not build them for that purpose.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: That is true, I admit that immediately. I do not think we had very much trouble on this score at that time but we certainly have the trouble now. I do not suppose we would be able to give very palatial quarters on the boats of the merchant marine, but I fancy there are a whole lot of decent people overseas who would take passage on those boats, even though the accommodation would be very different from that of the ordinary liner, at a rate of £3 10s. in preference to paying £18.

Mr. ROBB: Before the section passes I should say that we have arranged with the transportation lines whereby they give a remission on the regular rate of \$15 to each third class passenger coming from the United Kingdom to Canada.

Mr. GUTHRIE: That mainly applies to passengers from the United Kingdom.

Mr. ROBB: Yes, from the United Kingdom.

[Mr. Robb.]

Mr. GUTHRIE: I hardly agree with my hon. friend from West York (Sir Henry Drayton) that the ocean rate has much to do with the number of immigrants that come from Canada. We could get a very heavy immigration to this country, entirely apart from the ocean rate, if we so desired. What stops immigration is the restrictions which we have seen fit, rightly or wrongly to impose upon immigration, and I am satisfied that the ocean rate has very little to do with it. If we come to the conclusion that we want people, selected people, I think we can get them very readily in almost overwhelming numbers. But on the one hand we hear the objection "We do not want artisans and mechanics" and on the other hand we hear continually even in this House "We do not want any more farmers". What class then are we going to get.

Mr. LEWIS: Lawyers.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: What about Finns?

Mr. GUTHRIE: My own opinion, speaking only for myself, is that we might relax a good many of our present restrictions. We must remember that at all times immigrants to this country come from a class of people who are not wholly successful in their home lands. The successful classes, the contented classes, do not emigrate as a rule. They remain at home. The love of home is implanted in the human breast and operates equally, I think, on all nationalities. It is the unsuccessful, the discontented, those who have more or less made a failure of life, who desire to change conditions; and I think were we to go back to the early days of this country and see some of our own forebears when they originally landed in Canada we would find that they—coming from England, Ireland, Scotland and from the continent—were not the happy, prosperous contented classes of that day, but were just from the same classes who are inclined to leave their home land to-day. But notwithstanding all that, we find in this country and in this age that those who came a generation, or two generations, or three generations ago, did make a success of life and of conditions in Canada, and succeeding generations have improved on the standard of the old days until we have a nation we are proud of on this part of the continent at the present time. My own view is there should be a material relaxation in the restrictions which we have imposed on immigration coming into Canada.

You read in the newspapers, you hear on almost every political platform, and you hear