

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

numbers. He could then cut his garment according to the cloth.

I noticed the following in the last bulletin I received from the department of external affairs at Dublin, and by the way this is southern Ireland:

An Irish-Canadian club to promote closer cultural and trade relations between the two countries was formed at a meeting held in Dublin last week. The club is to have branches throughout Ireland and in Canada. It is estimated that there are nearly 1,000 Canadians living in Ireland and 1,500,000 of Irish descent in Canada.

I believe I read in the paper where the minister had stated that quite a number of Irishmen were coming over.

An hon. Member: From the north.

Mr. Higgins: That is what I was going to say; let me say it, will you? I think there should be a fair proportion come from southern Ireland. I do not know what the situation is there, and it may be that southern Irishmen do not want to leave their home. But every opportunity should be given to them if they want to come. After all, if there are 1,000 Canadians in Ireland surely we should have another five or six thousand Irishmen over here.

The last point I wish to raise has been mentioned already this afternoon, and I merely want to reiterate what has been said. I refer to Chinese immigrants who may want to come to Canada. In so far as I know the Chinese are a most excellent race and make fine citizens. The officials of the department have been most helpful to me in connection with any applications I have made. I found them very courteous and kindly. In view of the terrible position of the Chinese in China and Hong Kong I should like to see everything possible done in order that the wives and children of Chinese who are here may come to this country without too many difficulties being placed in their way.

The Chairman: The discussion has been principally on immigration, so may we consider that items 58 and 59 are carried, and then we could go on to immigration.

Mr. Knight: Mr. Chairman—

The Chairman: If any hon. members wish to speak on immigration I would ask them to wait until item 60 is called.

Mr. Knight: I feel compelled to rise if only to prove to my hon. friend from St. John's East that we from the north of Ireland also speak English. If I might be reminiscent, I hope my hon. friend is not like a certain old lady whom I met in Pennsylvania when a small boy. I went to stay with an aunt there

[Mr. Higgins.]

at a hotel in the Pocono hills. I was a little white-haired boy—I was going to say that I am still white-haired, but without the hair—and we met this American lady who was staying at the hotel. She asked who the little boy was, and my aunt told her that I had just come out from Ireland three weeks previously. She said, "My, how quickly he has learned the language".

I am glad to see that the population of Canada has been increased by three or four hundred good men from Northern Ireland, and I congratulate the minister, in so far as he deserves it, on that account. As far as I can tell about the hon. member behind me, his forebears did not come from Northern Ireland. Though his southern brogue remains, I suggest that he is not Irish at all. I notice that in the Ottawa valley practically everybody claims to be Irish. When anyone tells you he is Irish and you ask where he came from he says, "My great-grandfather left Ireland in 1801". That is not being Irish at all. Such people, perhaps like my hon. friend, say "Oh, we are Irish improved". Well, perhaps in their case some improvement was necessary.

I just wanted to say a word about citizenship.

An hon. Member: Canadian or Irish?

Mr. Knight: The question of Irish citizenship is too difficult to discuss, so I shall confine myself to the Canadian variety. I should like to inquire about these ceremonies. We have heard of a ceremony on a pretentious scale described by the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra, and then one on a more modest scale described by the hon. member for New Westminster. In the city of Saskatoon we have made an effort to give these people a welcome when they receive their certificates. Judge Smith is at the court house and a group of people, including the mayor and representatives of various organizations, welcome these people and say a friendly word to them.

I thought that when the act was passed a few years ago this procedure was definitely laid down. I remember that the government issued a booklet outlining the ceremony that could be held on these occasions. I imagine that it is being used in many places. I should like to ask the minister to what extent these ceremonies are being held and to what extent are people being merely handed their citizenship papers without any formality. When the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra was describing the ceremony used I could not help but think that moderation might perhaps be useful. As far as I can see there was everything in that program except movie