

fashioned bicycles, to get upon the saddle of which it was almost necessary to mount to the housetop. Tremendous changes have since taken place. When I was attending school I can remember reading Jules Verne's famous book, *Around the World in Eighty Days*. I thought then what a marvellous thing it would be to travel around the world in eighty days; yet look at what the inventiveness of the human race has brought about in so short space of time. First we had the bicycle; then came the telephone, the phonograph, electricity, the motor car, and other fast moving machines such as the aeroplane, and so on. There is no limit to what inventive genius has been able to do, but so far apparently no one has been able to work out a formula by which this world with its welter of races and human beings can live together in understanding and a common brotherhood.

During the past few days there has been raised in this house the question of immigration and the question of the refugee. Representing as I do a constituency made up of a mixture of races, although it is preponderantly Anglo-Saxon, I feel I should be remiss in my duty if I did not make some statement with regard to these important questions, affecting as they do so many peoples, and touching principles with which I think most of the hon. members of this house are concerned.

So much, Mr. Speaker, has been said on this question of immigration that the facts, I believe, ought to be known and given consideration and prominence. Certain hon. members have been speaking of immigration and refugees as if they were one and the same problem, with the same meaning and the same implications. There is a great difference between immigration and the problem of refugees. No one to my knowledge has ever asked in these times for an influx of immigrants in the ordinary sense of the word. No one has even asked that the country should be flooded with refugees. In matters of this importance people should not make rash statements without ascertaining the facts; nor should they deal in generalities.

What are the facts? Early last year a delegation of members of this house met the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) and discussed the question with him. Subsequently a subcommittee of the cabinet was appointed to consider the matter, and a number of the members of this house had an interview with the subcommittee. The members of the cabinet present—and I think I am entitled to make reference to this—were four members who had been designated as a subcommittee to deal with this important question: the minister in charge of immigration, the Minister

[Mr. Heaps.]

of Mines and Resources (Mr. Crerar); the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Mackenzie); the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ilsley), and the Secretary of State (Mr. Rinfret).

What the delegation requested was that a reasonable number of refugees of all races and creeds be allowed to come forward to parts of Canada where it was considered most desirable that they should settle. The number suggested at the time was five thousand men, women and children—approximately one thousand to twelve hundred families. All the members of the subcommittee at the time appeared to me to be sympathetic, and the members of the delegation present were prepared to give proper undertakings that none of the refugees would become a public charge. The number for which entry was requested was extremely small, in view of the need, but we felt that our government should show its sympathy in the matter; and to permit refugees to enter Canada and be freed from political, religious or racial persecution was in strict accord with historic Liberal principles.

But, sir, a new phase has now been injected into the problem. Everyone who has kept himself informed as to recent events cannot help extending sympathy to the refugees for the plight in which they find themselves, whatever their race or creed may be. Never in the history of mankind have human beings been treated so barbarously as they are being treated at the present time by fascist powers. Men, women and children, families which have been rooted for centuries in the land in which they lived, have been deprived and robbed of everything they possessed and ordered to leave the country, their only crime being that their racial origin or religious beliefs were distasteful to the powers that be or their democratic principles unwelcome in totalitarian states. The pitiful plight of all these people has aroused international concern. Almost every civilized country has definitely taken sympathetic action. Canada as yet has not done so, and I should like to see her take her rightful place with other democratic countries and show her sympathy in a practical manner. Great Britain, France, Holland, Australia and many other countries are giving asylum to tens of thousands of refugees, and in no place, to my knowledge, have they been a burden to the governments that have received them.

In regard to employment it might be well to mention that lately Sir Samuel Hoare said that in England eleven thousand refugees had given employment to fifteen thousand Englishmen. Speaking now with a knowledge of the conditions, and not from mere hearsay, I say that if our government had