

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

appear to have lost to the United States 131,742 persons. That is our net loss to that country.

The figures there appear to indicate that not only do our native born depart to the United States but also many people who have not established themselves as permanent residents, immigrants who have entered our country just as a stopping place before going elsewhere. When we are spending several millions of dollars on immigration, are we aware of the fact that we are losing many of our immigrants and perhaps many of our native born who, with a somewhat different emphasis with respect to our economy, might be retained within the country?

I have a number of problems I should like to take up with the minister. I do not propose to use too much of the time of the house, but I think this department requires careful study for our own information and for the information of the people of Canada. I should like to draw the minister's attention to an article which I presume he has already seen, and perhaps has answered, though I did not see the answer in the press. This article is dated April 26, 1952, and appeared in the *Globe and Mail*. It has reference to a meeting of the school of social work of the University of Toronto and the Toronto welfare council. The subject dealt with was immigration. From my knowledge of the situation in Winnipeg, and from my experience with the Winnipeg welfare council, I would say that the problems discussed in this article are perhaps the same in western Canada as they are in Ontario. I would like to quote just one or two passages here and perhaps the minister will make some comment. The article starts off as follows:

Prospective newcomers should be given a start in basic English before they arrive in Canada and the process of integrating them into the Canadian way of life needs a major overhauling.

These were two of the views expressed last night at a conference on new immigrants, held under the auspices of the school of social work of the University of Toronto, and the Toronto welfare council.

Then further on: Professor C. D. Hendry, who is director of the social work school, dealt with the problems facing the services. This is the statement made by Professor Hendry:

The public as a whole, he said, seemed to lack clarity, conviction and certainty as to how many immigrants can be absorbed. He described public policy on immigration as: "Cautious, conservative but essentially constructive." Dealing with specific attitudes, he found unawareness, lack of information, and apathy prevailed in some quarters, while in others there was fear that job security of Canadians was threatened by the immigrants.

[Mr. Churchill.]

He goes on to say, and these are his exact words as given in quotation marks in the paper; speaking of agency officials—

"I regret to say some are cold and even harsh in their treatment of new citizens."

Dr. Hendry has some further comments along that line and then Professor Wolfgang Friedmann, of the school of law, University of Toronto, and again I am quoting from the newspaper, said:

Many things could be done before the immigrants arrive in Canada. A common bond united all agencies which dealt with one or another of the problems of immigrants; a common desire to meet the challenge offered by the arrival in Canada of 200,000 newcomers annually.

Then Stephen Davidovitch, adviser, citizenship branch, Ontario department of education, said:

—the lot of the present-day immigrant was infinitely better than that of the immigrant of 50 years ago. Generally speaking, the public agreed that the immigrant should be helped but not mollycoddled.

I think we are in agreement with that.

An association composed of representatives of ethnic groups, to meet the immigrant and advise him on such matters as housing and jobs, would be a distinct advancement, he felt. Such a body might also make loans to newcomers and in this way prevent them from being fleeced by tricksters. . . Education of the newcomer, particularly in English, was stressed by the speaker as a prime necessity.

Miss Florence Philpott, executive secretary, Toronto welfare council, said:

A great deal of commendable work had been done. She stressed the lack of integrated, co-ordinated program.

After reviewing the existing services available to immigrants, Miss Philpott remarked that far too few of them availed themselves of their use. The fact that many of the agencies had not informed the immigrants of the existence of these services was not surprising, Miss Philpott said. She doubted whether these agencies knew the services existed, either.

What I am wondering about, Mr. Chairman, is the amount of co-operation that exists between this department and the various provincial governments on whom apparently the final responsibility rests when the immigrants are admitted. In experience, a great deal of the work in connection with immigrants seems to fall upon voluntary organizations and welfare services. To what extent the department has a plan with regard to aiding immigrants on arrival, in conjunction with the province, as suggested in that article, is a question on which I would like to hear some comment from the minister.

I will stop at that point, though I have some other questions to take up later.

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): I can briefly remark that I did not see the particular