

Mr. PUTNAM: Does it weigh with the hon. member, that the onus we impose on the transportation company is no more severe than that which is enforced by our American cousins?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Not in the slightest.

Mr. PUTNAM: It does with me.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: It may with the hon. gentleman because he is supporting the bill, and I do not suppose he has even read it.

Mr. ROBB: If we allowed everybody to come in without medical examination the hon. member's argument would be sound. But inasmuch as we impose certain medical restrictions on immigrants, then we say to the transportation companies that they shall be responsible if these immigrants when they come here are not physically fit.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Well, suppose the minister allowed the bill to stop there, with the inspection? But the bill goes past that.

Mr. BELAND: It does not.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: The Minister of Health is wrong; the bill goes past inspection and includes illness developed on board. It covers illness during the period of detention.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The immigrant is not inspected during detention.

Mr. BELAND: If an immigrant is medically inspected, is found fit and is passed, then, of course, if on his journey to his destination he falls ill the government is liable for his treatment. But until an immigrant has passed the medical examination, why should he be a charge on the country?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: No one has suggested that for a moment.

Mr. BELAND: A man leaves Europe; he is in the charge of the transportation company that brings him here. The moment he lands in Canada he is inspected by the immigration authorities and the medical officials. If he is considered to be suffering from any disease he is rejected and the transportation company is held responsible for whatever expenses may have been incurred on his account. And why should they not be held so responsible? Is there any reason why Canada instead of the transportation company, which is paid to bring out im-

migrants, be made responsible for the expenses involved in cases of illness? Shall we draw the line at Liverpool, at Antwerp or at Quebec?

Mr. BOYS: Where he boards the ship.

Mr. BELAND: That is a point we may dispute. That point of view may be held by my hon. friend but I do not share it myself. I say that so long as the immigrant has not landed in Canada and has not been medically inspected and passed as physically fit, all expenses incurred in the treatment of any illness from which he may be suffering should be borne by the transportation company which has brought him out. There is no reason whatever why we should bear that cost. My hon. friend advances the view that the company having exercised all possible vigilance in the matter, they cannot be accused of negligence. Very well; are we then to be charged with negligence, or are we to pay the cost of any illness in regard to which we have no responsibility? Obviously, either the company or the government must be responsible, and as between the two I say that unquestionably the responsibility should rest with the company.

Mr. BOYS: Why not go a step further and make the transportation company responsible for any illness which the immigrant may develop on his way between St. John and Winnipeg after having passed the authorities at St. John?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The company could not be responsible then because the country would have accepted the immigrant.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: So far as I can understand hon. gentlemen opposite, the Minister of Health (Mr. Béland) says that there is inspection before detention while the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Stewart, Argenteuil) says that the inspection is made after detention.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I did not say anything of the kind; I said that the company could not be held responsible after the immigrant had been passed at inspection.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: What my hon. friend said was to the effect that if he passed inspection he was not detained.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Surely he is not, but if he does not pass inspection he is detained, and he is not permitted to enter Canada until he can pass inspection.