

*The Budget—Mr. Crestohl*

At first blush their complaint seemed to have a basis. What they did not realize however was that these immigrants were also 194,000 potential users of fur coats, since our climate calls for the use of fur coats. That, they completely forgot, or they completely overlooked. The immediate problem may have existed; there may have been some dislocation for the fur workers; but in the long run there were 194,000 additional fur coat customers in Canada, which would provide work in the years ahead for many more than just 200 fur workers.

This is so true of every other commodity produced in Canada and is abundantly confirmed by authorities on the subject and public opinion across Canada, some of which I would like to quote briefly.

The first quotation is from the *Letter-Review* of April 7, 1952—as far back as 1952—published in Fort Erie, Ontario, which states:

Unemployment, in part seasonal, is causing leaders of labour unions to press for restriction of immigration. This is a short sighted policy advocated regularly by economic illiterates.

More immigration, not less, is the cure for unemployment. Every immigrant is a new customer for the products of Canadian industry and agriculture, increasing opportunities for employment in all parts of the country.

I quote now from the *Winnipeg Tribune* of December 18, 1954, in which G. S. Thorvaldson, Q.C., president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, states that "experience through the years had shown that immigration creates jobs rather than unemployment".

Again I would like to quote the Hon. Charles Daley who, on November 25, 1954, is quoted in the *Grimsby Independent* as follows:

Immigration in the long run creates work for others in Canada rather than taking jobs away from others.

And from the Amherst, Nova Scotia, *Daily News* of December 21, 1953, speaking editorially:

The truth, of course, is that immigrants make jobs; that instead of an immigrant taking away a job from somebody born or already here, he actually makes more jobs for him.

That, in its simplest form, is the case for more immigrants.

Then from the Windsor, Ontario, *Daily Star* of August 7, 1954:

In normal times the argument that immigrants take jobs from other people is fallacious. Because they create, by their purchasing power, as many jobs as they take—or more.

Then my final quotation is from the *Winnipeg Tribune* of February 25, 1954, which contained an editorial which stated in part:

During the past few years there has been a growing outcry from certain quarters to restrict

immigration on the ground that newcomers grabbed jobs and caused unemployment. The government should ignore these outcries. The fact is that Canada needs more people to help the country develop and to provide stable markets for industrial and agricultural products.

To bulwark these opinions I should like to offer a few figures. Since the end of the war Canada has admitted over one million people. During this period we enjoyed years of reasonable prosperity, as one hon. member who spoke today clearly stated. The *Financial Post* made a survey which partly explains this prosperity. It points out that these immigrants produced a market for some 210,000 houses, 220,000 radios, 100,000 passenger cars, 100,000 refrigerators, 200,000 washing machines, besides food, clothing and everyday requirements.

There was little or no unemployment during the waves of immigration into Canada. Apparently our accelerated production is now catching up with our almost stagnant Canadian consumer market and our dwindling foreign market, and I fear that our problems will grow progressively worse until we compensate or create the necessary replacement markets.

We in Canada speak with the greatest pride of our God-given natural resources. We are fortunate to possess them, but let us recognize that the greatest natural resource of them all is not that which is buried in the ground but that which walks upon it in the form of human beings and is able to convert the buried treasures into their real national asset. Let us also realize that it is the people of a country that represent its very strength and its very life and develop its future.

What, after all, has contributed most to make the United States the world's greatest nation? Its natural resources? Or its people? It was the continuous waves of immigration between 1890 and 1910 that enabled our neighbour to the south to become the leading nation in the world; not its natural resources but its people, uniquely its people.

Therefore I urge respectfully that a courageous change in our immigration policy should be promptly and seriously considered. It should be altered from a negative to a positive approach. Our policy should direct the immigration inspectors to examine prospective immigrants with a view to finding grounds to admit them rather than to ferret out reasons to exclude them. There are thousands of prospective immigrants waiting. The department has the applications but processing is delayed because policy does not permit the officials to deal with them. What a pity!

Among those who are waiting are many highly trained technicians, skilled craftsmen