

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

long residence there. I urge that the applications of these people be looked upon with favour and sympathy.

What I have had to say this afternoon, Mr. Chairman, has been quite brief, but I can assure you and the minister that I have spoken with the endorsement of the majority of the workers in my constituency and the majority of the people whom I represent. We want to see brought to Canada all the people we can support. We cannot live in this great and vast land without sharing it with other people. But we do ask that the greatest care be taken to bring these people in so they are fitted into our economic life and into the communities generally without displacing Canadians, without taking homes from Canadians, and without developing the frictions and the difficulties that arise as a result. When they have come as the result of careful selection and policies of that type, in a very short time they will become good Canadians like the rest of us.

**Mr. Browne (St. John's West):** Mr. Chairman, the remarks of the previous speaker were so interesting and convincing that I hesitate to draw attention to the contradictions that were so evident in his speech. When he concluded I was not sure whether he was in favour of bringing in people or keeping them out. One thing is sure; he is not in favour of the policy that was enunciated by the minister last night, when he said that the government was fully aware of the need of this country to get more people. He said they were going to do their best to bring immigrants into this country on a very wide basis.

There is no doubt that a country like Canada, 3,500 miles wide and with population only along a railway strip across the country, with a huge hinterland which is still unpopulated, cannot justifiably refuse more immigrants. I do not think any man in his sane and sober senses could argue that way. More immigrants would mean more people to bear their share of taxation and more consumers to consume the enormous production of this rich land.

Take the matter of wheat alone. The people in this country will never be numerous enough to consume all the wheat that the country can produce. Last year this country produced 660 million bushels, which is equivalent to 220 million barrels of flour. In Newfoundland we figure an average of one barrel of flour per year per person; therefore 220 million people could be fed by the wheat produced in this country. If other articles of food were produced in the same proportion this country could support an immeasurably larger population.

[Mr. Herridge.]

The minister said that in pursuance of their immigration program they were going to give priority to wives, children and other close relatives. That is a very humane and understandable position which I think everyone will support. It is the declared permanent policy of the government to make a careful selection, as was requested by the previous speaker. They make a careful selection to try to get people who can be settled advantageously and permanently absorbed into the population. In doing that there has always been a sort of favouritism toward people of Nordic stock, people from the British Isles and from northern Europe. According to the figures in the report of the government a considerable number of people have come in from southern Europe, which I am glad to note. I think it would be a mistake to people this country with selections only from the Nordic races who in some cases have been lauded much too highly.

Then there is the question of continents other than Europe. If the white men have exploited the dark races in the past they have an opportunity now, which I am sure they are not going to use, of permitting the dark races to share in the tremendous riches which the white man has in his possession in the United States, and especially in this country.

Among the races who have been coming to Canada have been Japanese and Chinese. Before the war the Japanese came in annually by the hundreds, but since 1928 at least the Chinese have come in only one by one from a vast population of about 400 million. That continued until 1947, when the government relaxed the strict regulations against the Chinese. Since that time they have been permitted to come in at the rate of 3,000 annually.

The figures indicate that last year, up to March 31, 2,745 persons of Chinese origin came into Canada, and of that number 14 went to Newfoundland. As the minister knows, I have been interested in assisting the wives and children of Canadian citizens of Chinese origin living in Newfoundland to come to that province. If we had received our proportion of the 2,745 total we would have been entitled to 69. I ask the minister to keep that in mind when applications are made by Canadian citizens of Chinese origin residing in Newfoundland who want to bring in wives or children. I ask him to remember that Newfoundland's proportion has been unusually small, and not the number to which we were entitled. I urge him to act as generously as he can under those circumstances.

I know many of these Canadian citizens of Chinese origin who live in Newfoundland.