

Mr. MURPHY: May I inquire why her services are not going to be continued?

Mr. CALDER: Mrs. Robson has made up her mind that she does not wish to continue in the service, and she remains on temporarily until such time as an appointment is made. Let me say this to the committee, and say it very frankly,—that in my view, the handling of the problem relating to the immigration of women is one of the most difficult problems that the department has to deal with, and it is most essential that we should get a woman who is thoroughly competent and thoroughly trained, with the necessary tact and judgment to handle that work. I would be the last man who would want to see any person appointed who did not have such qualifications, because there is no position in our service where more trouble can be caused by not having the right kind of person in the position, and I have been most anxious that an appointment of right class should be made. Mrs. Robson has made up her mind that she will not continue in the service, and it is expected that she will leave very shortly, and I am very anxious that we should get, as her successor, some person who can do the work and carry it on in the way in which it should be carried on. We must have such a person, otherwise we are going to have a great deal of trouble.

Mr. MURPHY: Then I understand my hon. friend to say further that the position had been advertised as being a new one, and applications had been invited for it; that applications were sent in, a dozen or more; and that after these had been inquired into the decision was reached that none of the applicants came up to the requirements, and it was decided to re-advertise the position. Is that correct?

Mr. CALDER: Yes.

Mr. MURPHY: I understood my hon. friend to say further, that the applications sent in were inquired into jointly by the Civil Service Commission and the representatives of a council of women appointed in some way by the Government. I would like to know who compose this council, on what basis they are appointed, and by what authority they have a voice in making this Government appointment.

Mr. CALDER: In the first place, the appointment was by Order in Council under the Immigration Act.

Mr. MURPHY: That is, the first appointment?

Mr. CALDER: The body was created under the provisions of the Immigration Act.

Mr. MURPHY: Is the hon. gentleman now speaking of the Council of Women?

Mr. CALDER: Yes. The organizations represented on that council are: Interprovincial Farm Women—a nation-wide organization—by Mrs. John McNaughton, of Harris, Saskatchewan; the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, by Mrs. J. S. Robson, of Winnipeg; the Young Women's Christian Association, by Lady Falconer, of Toronto; the National Council of Women, by Mrs. Vincent Massey, of Toronto; the Women's Christian Temperance Union, by Mrs. Gordon Wright, of London; the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire, by Mrs. W. D. Spence, of Calgary; the National Committee on Mental Hygiene, by Mrs. Colin Russel, of Montreal; the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, by Mr. Tom Moore; the Great War Veterans Association, by Mr. MacNeil, Secretary; the Catholic Women's League of Canada, by Lady Pope, of Ottawa; the Women's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church of Canada, by Mrs. H. A. Lavell, of Kingston; the Women's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada by Mrs. J. N. West, of Toronto; the Women's Auxiliary to the Missionary Society of the Church of England, by Miss Bogert, Ottawa, and the Social Service Council of Canada, by Dr. J. G. Shearer, Toronto. The Council is composed of persons whose names I have mentioned. They have had several meetings. The main object of the Council has been to consider the problem of women immigration and to make certain recommendations to the Government from time to time as to the best method of carrying on our work, and I can say quite frankly that their recommendations have been very helpful to us. As a matter of fact, we have made a number of changes in the handling of women immigration, which I think, have resulted in great good to these people. For example, these various organizations have women officers at the ports in addition to our own, and when the immigrants land they are very much better looked after than in the old days, being provided with all sorts of comforts and assisted in every way. In fact, these organizations handle, very efficiently, all the problems connected with women immigration, and when it becomes known overseas how carefully the work is done, it will tend to increase our immigration.