

four years during the six years immediately preceding the date of the application. Surely there is merit in exceptions being made in cases like that. But what I say is that the effect of the hon. gentleman's amendment will be that a British immigrant can obtain, after one year, full rights of citizenship and the immigration department will be deprived of the right to inquire, after the year is over, into the capacity or character of the immigrant, and you will abolish absolutely all the provisions of the Immigration Act with regard to this class of immigrants.

Mr. FLEMING: It will not change one word of the Immigration Act.

Mr. GLEN: I do not see how you are going to divorce it, because if this amendment passes inevitably the Immigration Act must be amended. The two acts deal with the same matter, one expressly providing that one year will give the right of citizenship, and the Immigration Act providing, as I have already stated, that five years' residence in Canada is required. There must certainly be no overlapping in that respect, and if this amendment is carried, as it will be the latest expression of this house on the subject, you will immediately cancel all provisions with regard to the entry of applicants who are not, as we think, competent to enter the country under the provisions of this act.

I view this matter with a great deal of seriousness because to-day, with the tremendous number of applications from Europe and elsewhere by those who desire to come to Canada, I do not want to see the restrictions on immigrants relaxed to the extent that we may be bound to take those whom otherwise we would reject. It is an extremely serious matter. It is a matter on which, I know, every member of the house feels as deeply as I do. None of us would go to our constituencies and plead for anything other than that we should have only men and women of sound bodies and sound minds coming into this country. It is for this reason, realizing the dangers, that I have spoken with some degree of heat, although not personal heat. I feel that the committee should not pass this amendment. I feel that provincial governments should have some opportunity of giving expression to their views of the class of immigrants that should be allowed in, the qualifications of those immigrants, in order that those who are, after all, charged with the responsibility and expense of maintaining them shall have some say as to the conditions governing their admission.

[Mr. Glen.]

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): I am not going to speak at length.

An hon. MEMBER: Good.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): "Good"? That is fine. I do not speak at length; it is not my practice to take up much of the time of the house. But I think the figures given by the minister in connection with deportations of people who have come to this country are startling, although he has not given us the figures of the total number of admissions. Of course we want in this country people of sound bodies and sound minds; but, assuming the figures to be as he has stated, I do not see that the amendment of the hon. member to my left is in any way related to this situation, because persons from any part of the British empire, if they are allowed by the department to come into this country, should be of sound mind and sound body.

I suggested before that this bill should go to a committee to be properly studied, and I am still of that opinion. If one may judge by the figures which the Minister of Mines and resources has given to the committee, it is obvious that something is wrong. This country must have been put to a cost involving thousands of dollars simply because the inspection of people coming into Canada has not been properly carried out. I repeat, there is something wrong, and it has nothing whatever to do with the question of somebody coming from some part of the British empire and not being given a privilege which we should extend on a reciprocal basis to all people from the British commonwealth of nations. The figures which the minister has put on *Hansard* are so startling that something ought to be done about the matter. We do not want to have unsound people coming to the country. I see the Minister of National Revenue over there and perhaps he can tell me what should be done in regard to the examination of these people. With medical science what it is to-day, we ought to be able to examine them and ascertain whether they are likely to make good citizens before they come in. I suggest that an investigation should be started right away.

Mr. GRAYDON: I do not think the minister gave an answer to the members who originally asked him for the figures with regard to immigrants coming from the British isles.

Mr. GLEN: For this period of years?

Mr. GRAYDON: Yes. I have been checking up on one of the returns tabled this session, and I find that from June 1, 1945, to January 31 of this year, of 14,367 immi-