

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Is the minister not aware that Mr. Roger Babson recently reported a steady rise in commodity prices next year, but no corresponding rise in agricultural products?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I think I can see evidences that we may be justified in differing from Mr. Roger Babson.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Do the official records of the government show a declining curve in commodity values?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Not appreciably at the moment, no.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Hear, hear.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Let me refer my hon. friends again to history. Has the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Meighen) ever known, or can he name, a period in history when there was a continued rise in the commodities manufactured for use by the agriculturists of a country like Canada, and when there was no corresponding increase in agricultural products?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I think myself that cycles occur and that time will do its work. But with the government in office I despair of everything else except time.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): If my hon. friend will forget about the government in office for a moment and deal with the subject in hand we shall get on.

Mr. IRVINE: On what ground does the minister base his optimism with regard to the contemplated decline in prices?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): On the old and well known ground, as I have just stated to the leader of the Opposition, that in countries such as Canada agriculture cannot long continue in a depressed state. I will admit to my hon. friend that there are conditions to-day to be met with that have not had to be faced in the past, conditions in connection with the various articles that go to make up cost, that have not had to be coped with in the past in the same manner as they will have to be met to-day. But there must come a levelling-up between the amount the farmer receives for his labour and that received by labour in other walks of life. That inevitably must come about. And just as sure as there is in the American states to-day an unprecedented era of prosperity in the urban communities, perhaps previously unknown in the history of that country, there is a corresponding depression in agriculture. I shall deal with that point for a moment or two this

[Mr. C. A. Stewart.]

afternoon and recite some of my experiences in that connection. But let me observe in passing that I am not suggesting, as someone is sure to imply in a moment, that labour should take less for that which it is so frequently represented as selling. Someone is sure to ask, are they to take less? I am not suggesting that. I am suggesting that labour will be enabled to purchase more of the necessities of life and that there will be a reduction in the natural commodities that pass between one class of the community and the other. I am not unmindful of conditions as they are, but with them I cannot at present deal for any considerable length of time. I will touch them again perhaps a little more fully when I come to consider the question as to the class of people whom we hope to encourage to come to Canada.

Conditions to-day, however, are changing very rapidly in Canada; they change month by month. Three months ago we could not have held out encouragement to labourers to come to Canada to secure employment unless they were agricultural labourers; and I think that one of the problems that has to be faced to-day, in contrast with days gone by in connection with immigration, is the fact that we must necessarily be exercised about the question where the labourer is going to locate and what vocation he is going to be engaged in. Heretofore not very much attention has been paid to that aspect of immigration; rather we have been bringing immigrants into Canada and letting them shift very largely for themselves. Let me deal for a moment or two with where we hope to bring our settlers from and how we propose to settle them. We propose to bring settlers in as large a way as possible from Great Britain, and to encourage as many as will come from there to settle in Canada.

Mr. SPENCER: Is it true that of the advertising being carried on for settlers, some \$3,000 has been spent in Great Britain as against \$90,000 elsewhere?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Ninety-two thousand dollars.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): That was given in a return asked for by my hon. friend the ex-Minister of Finance (Sir Henry Drayton), and for the first time the advertising branch of the Department of Immigration began to segregate its accounts. It is not true that \$3,000 represents the whole sum spent in Great Britain; it represents simply the amount spent in newspaper advertising. My secretary gave a supplementary return