

men should have preference. I have protested as vigorously as anybody against the influx of immigrants to Canada. I want to take the position however—and I believe my views are very much the same as those expressed by the minister a few nights ago—that if these people are encouraged to come to Canada or are permitted to come they should have the full rights of Canadian citizenship. I think that is in keeping with the conventions of the League of Nations.

Mr. GORDON: Provided they are prepared to conform to Canadian laws.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Quite right. But I say it is not fair for men who have been in this country five, ten, fifteen or twenty years, honest, upright workmen—it is not fair that at this time of stress they should be discriminated against and dismissed simply because they are foreigners, and when they become a public charge that they should be deported from the country. Remember, Mr. Chairman, that almost half of our population west of the great lakes is non-Anglo Saxon in origin. What kind of a country are we going to develop before very long if we allow racial discrimination of this kind to creep in? We are going to transform that part of Canada into a regular Balkan country. If we are to build up a unified people in Canada it must be done by giving every one a chance, whatever his origin, once he has been allowed to come into this country. When I think of the positive injustice of it; when I think of the way in which immigrants have been induced to come here, leaving their old homes in central Europe, selling their property, breaking up all the connections they held dear and migrating to this "land of plenty," I have a great sympathy for them. It is not their fault that the world depression has come about, and we should be men enough and big enough to recognize that they are a part of us; we should not force them to carry too great a part of the burden.

Take another section of our population, composed of men of all the different races, the casual labourers. They were brought to this country in very large numbers. They helped build our railroads and our great construction works; they dug our sewers and did the rough work in connection with the construction of our cities. They went into the lumber camps and worked there. Now the greater part of this sort of work is finished, and I think we must recognize that probably we will never have a period of construction comparable to the period we had during the

building of the three great transcontinental systems and other great works. There you have tens of thousands of transient, unskilled labourers thrown upon the labour market. They form a great part of the people who today are in our bread lines and soup kitchens. I do not much wonder that these people are getting restless. They have been told again and again that prosperity is around the corner but now they have waited two or three years. They were told that when the spring opened up everything would be well, but last spring opened up and things were no better than they were during the previous winter. Now these men are beginning to say, "Well, what about us?" We say they should be put into camps, and in my opinion they will be better in camps, as I suggested the other day, than they will be hanging around the cities. But the tendency seems to be to put them in camps and pay them a mere pittance, on which they can never hope to become independent. I urge that if you take thousands of these men and force them to live in idleness and in celibacy week after week, month after month and year after year, their moral fibre will be sapped, and that sort of group of men will become a menace to the community.

I am taking this opportunity, Mr. Chairman, to say that in this parliament we ought frankly to face the serious situation that is before us. Instead of further increasing our police force and adopting other repressive measures of that kind we should bend all our energies to giving these men an opportunity. Once you have a contented citizenship you will not need police except in the case of the very rare man who is abnormal in his whole makeup. If we have justice in this country and if there is a chance for people to earn an honest livelihood we will not need the increases which are asked for in this measure.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: When my hon. friend was speaking I did not wish to interrupt, but as one who has actually done some work in his day and who has associated with labour I feel that my hon. friend from Winnipeg North Centre is not half as competent to speak for labour as is the average member of this house, whether he be Liberal or Conservative. I doubt very much if a drop of honest sweat, occasioned by labour, has fallen from the brow of my hon. friend for the last twenty-five years; if it had it would have been as priceless as a positive cure for cancer. These be the gentry, the men who never worked, who in the House of Commons represent labour.