

to decide in their own minds what ought to be done about this important question of immigration.

I am not going to make a speech on the subject now. I say without hesitation that I agree 100 per cent with the address just made by the honourable gentleman from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar). Certainly he expressed the view of the part of Canada that we come from.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: That is the view of our part of the country. We do not think that immigrants will lower the standard of living or the opportunities for employment of the rest of the people. On the contrary, we think that the more good immigrants we let in the higher our standard of living will go and the greater will be the opportunity for employment. Those of us who are getting a few gray hairs and can remember back to 1897 or so, recall that the government of that day inaugurated an immigration policy which it was prophesied would have dire consequences. But that policy led to the great expansion of a large part of Canada.

There is one point that was not made by my honourable friend from Churchill. In the present advanced stage of transportation and intercommunication, I do not believe that twelve million people can very long hold the richest land on earth from greedy people elsewhere. If we refuse to allow more immigrants to settle here and become part of our national life we are only inviting trouble for ourselves. We might as well face this thing realistically. Whether we like it or not, some countries of the world today regard themselves as have-not countries, and they consider that we are one of the have countries. So considering the thing on the lowest level, that of self interest, we should do what we can to facilitate the settlement in Canada of desirable people from abroad. I can speak with a good deal of authority as to Ukrainian and Polish people who came to the West in years gone by. They form a solid part of our population and contribute to every aspect of our life.

I have much pleasure in supporting the motion for concurrence in the report.

Hon. RALPH B. HORNER: Honourable senators, as a member of the committee I should like to say a few words. One of the committee's recommendations is that all immigration be supervised by the government. I was wondering whether that was intended as any criticism at all of the Mr. Dionne, the textile manufacturer in the province of Quebec who brought some two hundred girls from displaced persons camps in Europe to work in his factory.

Hon. Mr. ROEBUCK: No, it was not.

Hon. Mr. HORNER: Possibly not. However, to make myself clear, I want to say that I have no criticism whatever of Mr. Dionne's action. I commend him warmly. To friends whose religious faith is different from that of Mr. Dionne and who complained to me about what he did, my answer is, "Get busy and ask for the same privilege." Criticism of the wages paid the girls is, I think, not properly founded. If they formerly were in need and living in camps, surely now that they have been brought over here and given good care and nourishing food the question of their wages for the next two years is a relatively small one. By that time they may have become valuable citizens. No doubt Mr. Dionne will be highly commended by his church for making sure that the girls whom he employed were of the Roman Catholic faith; but, after all, that is the faith of most of the people in the community where they are to work. To persons of my own and other religious faiths who are inclined to be critical of Mr. Dionne I say, "Go and do likewise."

I wish to join in congratulations to the chairman of the committee (Hon. Mr. Murdoch) and the honourable gentleman from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck) upon the good work done by the committee and the valuable report presented to us. The government should be complimented upon lightening the immigration restrictions, but I must confess that when I consider the few concessions that have been made I feel a sense of frustration. The admission of a few thousands of people instead of some millions indicates a mere nibbling at the whole question. It is true that the government has an opportunity now to do far more.

I was pleased to hear the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck) say that he hoped we would soon have a peace treaty that would not leave us under the handicap of referring to certain people as enemy aliens. This classification has kept some very good immigrants out of this country. Honourable senators may have noticed by a press despatch that some 30,000 Germans recently stole away from the Russian occupied zone to avoid being taken to Russia as slave labour. Surely those are displaced persons of the first order. I would strongly recommend to the government that Germans of that type be classified as displaced persons, and be permitted to come to this country.

Some time ago I received a letter from a 22-year-old German lad in England whom I had previously met at Regan, Ontario. At the outbreak of the war he was a boy of fifteen,