

In the course of my trips across this vast area of over 300,000 square miles, it has been a great pleasure for me to meet citizens of all groups and all classes, and I must say, without fear of contradiction, that the people living in Charlevoix-Saguenay are most faithful, loyal and honest. They love their country; they love the soil from which they draw their living; they love the small piece of land where they raise their large families, praying the Almighty to be preserved from the evils that are spreading all over the world.

They are glad to collaborate with their fellow-citizens and give their contribution toward making this country as beautiful as possible, and a place where one can live happily; but they, in turn, need the collaboration of the governments, and the greatest of these needs consists in the establishment of better means of communication.

I have already said, and I will repeat it as long as the authorities refuse to hear my appeal, that the only means of developing this vast section of our country would be the construction of a road along the north shore of the St. Lawrence. We have seen in the war appropriations that this government is spending vast sums to build some roads in the western part of the country, and I am eager to see the day when the government will look up to the eastern part as well.

I said that our people live quietly and happily. I stated that they want to collaborate with their fellow-citizens, but they do not want to be replaced by foreigners of all descriptions. That is the reason why they are opposed to opening wide the doors of our country to facilitate immigration. On this question, I already had the opportunity on June 5 to say a few words in this house, and I should like to complete my remarks. Since this question of immigration will, no doubt, be one of the most important in the post-war period, I hope it will be discussed in every quarter with the broadest-minded spirit.

We very often hear some figures mentioned about the possibilities for Canada to absorb many million immigrants after the war. While listening to such declarations, I have always wondered if they were made in good faith, and if those who made them knew exactly what they were speaking about. One of the many reasons advanced for accepting immigrants in Canada is the contention that so many million immigrants will become so many million consumers; but I never heard that such figures were based on serious inquiries, and my first point is that the government, before allowing these immigrants to enter Canada, should make a complete survey throughout the country to ascertain whether there is enough

space to absorb such immigrants. I challenge anyone to deny the necessity of such a survey being made with the least possible delay. Doubtless, we cannot compare our density of population in Canada with that of any other country, and I think it is stupid to contend that Canada is able to receive so many million immigrants on account of her vast area. The contentions that are based upon this comparison of areas are not serious ones and are made by those who ignore, as I already said, what they are talking about. In fact, everybody knows that in our country there is only a strip of land habitable, so that we easily come to the conclusion that available space throughout Canada is more limited than it is claimed to be in some quarters. The logical attitude to take would be not to accept immigrants before ascertaining that we need them, and before making a judicious choice of them. I think nearly everybody in this country is willing to have new citizens come from abroad, but they also expect these newcomers to collaborate in building up a greater country, and that they will not be a burden for Canadian citizens.

Since we may not be afforded the time to discuss at full length the problem of immigration when the civil estimates of the Minister of Mines and Resources (Mr. Crerar) come before the house, I take advantage of this opportunity to express my views on this policy. I wish to state that it would be much better for us to keep Canadian-born citizens in Canada, rather than replacing them with newcomers. I am mentioning this, because if we refer to the "Canada Year Book" of 1942, we see at page 91 a complete summary of the movement of the Canadian population for the last twenty years. It is entitled:

Summary of births, deaths, natural increase and immigration, calendar years, with estimated population as at June 1, 1921-40.

On June, 1, 1921, the population of Canada was 8,788,000. From 1921, to June 1, 1940, 797,036 immigrants came to Canada; in the same period of time, we had 2,432,609 births. Therefore, had we kept our newly-born Canadians together with the immigrants who came to Canada, our population should have increased to 12,017,645. According to the summary just mentioned, we see that on June 1, 1940, our population was 11,422,000; that is to say, about 600,000 less than we should have had. As mentioned, we received 797,000 immigrants and we lost 600,000 Canadian citizens. Have I not the right to ask, where is the benefit in spending such large amounts of money for immigration when we cannot save our own citizens? To explain these figures, I must say that the ones which I have just read about newly-born Canadians are given after having