

The CHAIRMAN: I am rather inclined to doubt whether the hon. member's remarks are relevant to this particular section, which relates to those who are confined in penitentiaries, gaols, reformatories, and so on.

Mr. LADNER: My remarks referred to section 1 of the act, which contains a number of subsections.

The CHAIRMAN: Section 1 before the committee deals with certain classes of criminals.

Mr. LADNER: But there are other classes in section 1. I merely wish to ask the minister if consideration has been given to the question of doing away with dual citizenship; in other words, of making the law so that an immigrant coming into this country who retains the citizenship of his country of origin will not be able to acquire citizenship in Canada. That is a matter of great importance, and I thought the department had looked into it, and would have some views upon it now that these amendments are being brought down.

Mr. ROBB: I am bound to say I have not considered that feature. The matter brought up by my hon. friend is one that might perhaps more appropriately be discussed with the Secretary of State.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Can the minister tell us what is meant by the term "undesirable classes." Take an immigrant who can speak neither French nor English, who is without means, and has not enough skill or ability to work at anything. Would he be held to be undesirable under this section?

Mr. ROBB: If he is an illiterate he would not be admitted to Canada at all, under the Immigration Act.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Then I am afraid my hon. friend is not enforcing his regulations, because we have up in northern Ontario now a very large number of men who are illiterate, who can speak neither English nor French, and who are being maintained largely by the charity of the people up there. There are 150 Finns up there.

Mr. ROBB: How long have they been in Canada?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: They got here this year, and applied for work, but it was found they could not work. They are uneducated, can speak neither English nor French, and are being supported by charity; at least they were a month ago

Mr. ROBB: Most of the complaints coming to us are that the department is too strict in the matter of examining immigrants.

Section agreed to.

On section 2—Members of family accompanying rejected person.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I notice, not only in connection with this section but other sections, additional expenses are put on the transportation company, and I was just wondering whether it was this sort of thing that brings about this situation. I remember the time very well when the rate on immigrants was £3 and £3 10s. Today the cost of passage is a multiple of that sum. It is one of the chief expenses my hon. friend is up against in connection with his work of immigration. The increase is very great, and I was just wondering whether all these provisions dealing with the transportation companies do not simply mean that we are going to have a very high rate of passage for immigrants. Why should there be a general charge against the transportation companies unless they are wrong?

Mr. ROBB: There is no charge against them unless they are wrong.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: There certainly is under this act, absolutely. Now if they are to be insurers and are to be put to all these charges, the transportation of officials, not only Dominion but provincial, and all that sort of thing, of course they are going to continue to make these tremendous charges against immigration. Would the minister let us know what the rate is now?

Mr. ROBB: The passage costs from sixteen to eighteen pounds, according to the ship. The Commissioner of Immigration tells me that had the total detention charges of last season been charged against the transportation companies it would not have amounted to 25 cents per head on the immigrants carried.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: These proposed sections were not law then.

Mr. ROBB: There is a measure of fairness in this, I submit to my hon. friend.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: What does my hon. friend think of the multiplication of the rate from £3 10s. to £16 and £18, when we are looking for immigrants?

Mr. ROBB: At the outbreak of the war it was £6 10s. While the rate for immigrants has increased, it has not increased proportionately more than the rate for first-class cabin