

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

Mr. Mott:—in accepting new citizens in our city. It would be only right at this time if I mentioned what happens in my own city of New Westminster. The judge who swears in the new citizens plays a very important part in just what kind of ceremony takes place. For the last four or five years Judge Sullivan of the county court in New Westminster has had an outstanding ceremony in our city. On several occasions I have been asked to speak. Senator Tom Reid was asked to speak on many other occasions.

To give you an idea of just what does happen, invitations go out to all the local bodies, including the local council of women, the mayor and the council, the president and members of the executive of the board of trade, and the bar association has always been represented by seven or eight of the outstanding members of the bar in their robes. We also have a member of the R.C.M.P. in a red coat, and our own local police.

They do have an outstanding ceremony. We are always asking the judges who come from Vancouver why they do not put on a similar ceremony in Vancouver. I should like to bring this to the attention of my good friend the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra because it has now moved along to a point where the service clubs have a citizenship night once a year in the stadium in New Westminster. They send invitations to all the new citizens, and have representatives of the New Westminster regiment, the Boy Scouts and the Girl Guides, and several bands. An outstanding program is held at the stadium. On several occasions I have sent the program to the minister. We are very proud of the ceremony that takes place in New Westminster, which has always been known as a royal city. We try to keep that name before the public. We welcome our new citizens to the city, and we extend our congratulations to Judge Sullivan of the county court who has been a leader in the movement for the ceremony that takes place.

Mr. Higgins: I have not heard too much of this debate, but I was quite interested in the remarks of the last two speakers, particularly the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra, who always makes an interesting address.

As I understand the situation, both hon. members spoke about what happens after the immigrants have been in Canada for some time. The situation that we should tackle in Canada is what happens when the immigrants come to Canada first. The first view they have of Canada and of Canadians is important. It may not happen at all the ports of entry; it may not even happen in

that one small port that I heard described as the port of Saint John—the hon. member is not here to enjoy what I have to say about it. But I have seen quite a number of immigrants come to Gander, having been brought over by Trans-Canada and other air lines. These lines were employed by the government in those days. I have seen them come in with tags on them, as you would tag a cow, a horse or any other kind of animal you were shipping. It was very obvious why they were tagged in that way. It was not done to discredit them or as a mark of dishonour. They were tagged because they could not speak English or any other language of the country. Their destination was put on the tag and they were told how they had to buy their food and where they had to buy their food, and what have you.

The thing I want to say to the minister is this. I do not know whether that system still exists as it did in the days I am speaking of, but at all ports of entry the minister should have people who could interpret the language of these immigrants, whether it was Italian, Norwegian—I was going to say Irish, but I will not because of my hon. friend who is sitting in front of me. It is quite obvious that quite a number of nationalities do not speak English, and when they come to the ports of this country the first thing they have to do is to deal with a foreign language. They do not know what is going on around them; they do not know what they are being invited to do, and it upsets them very much.

If that condition still exists, then I say to the minister that he should have people stationed at these ports who can speak the language of these particular immigrants. It would not cost very much, and the first impression sometimes means so much.

Then I come to the points that have been made already, and I only want to reiterate what has been said before. I do not believe this planning of immigration by the government has been definite by any means. I do not think immigration is as well planned as it might have been. I feel that the parts of the country in which these immigrants may want to settle should have an opportunity of discussing things with the minister or with the officials of the department. I am thinking especially of a conversation I had earlier in the day with an hon. member from Prince Edward Island. He told me that they would like to have a lot of high-class farmers in that part of the country. The same applies to other parts of the country, and I think it would be a good idea if the minister consulted the various provinces to see what types of people they wanted and in what