

ground. I will therefore as shortly as I can endeavour to give a resumé of the different activities of my department.

With regard to European countries, I might say a word about the railway agreements of which we hear a great deal. We have an agreement between the department and the two big railway companies whereby they are allowed to recruit in certain countries in Europe a certain number of immigrants of the farmer type.

Mr. SPENCER: Why only the farmer type?

Mr. FORKE: It was thought that was the type of people whom we could most readily assimilate, and as a matter of fact we have more demand for farm labourers than for almost any other class of immigrants. That has been my experience, and whether that policy is right or wrong, it is the present policy of the department. Mention has been made of experienced and partly experienced farm labourers. Naturally people brought up on a farm are of a type that can make good farm labourers, but we all know quite a large percentage of them drift into other employment.

We sometimes speak rather slightly of foreign-born immigration, but this country would take a long time to develop if we had not foreign-born immigrants. If you go around and see who is doing the heavy, nasty work, work in the lumber camps, in the sewers, the hard physical work that is perhaps not to be desired by our own people, you will find that it is being carried on by foreigners. They are not to be despised; many of them are honest people, willing to do the hard physical labour that our own people will not undertake, and we can always assimilate a certain number of foreign-born people. I agree with the hon. member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr. Edwards) that we should be careful that they are not allowed to come into this country in too great numbers so that the British-born element will not be almost absorbed by a foreign population. The railway companies undertake not to bring in immigrants from foreign countries unless they are farmers, farm labourers, or domestic servants. They also undertake by solemn agreement that when they bring them to this country they will place them in occupations.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: What guarantee have we that the railway companies will live up to that agreement?

[Mr. Forke.]

Mr. FORKE: The guarantee that we can stop them if they do not live up to it, and the written word of the presidents of the two railway companies.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: If instances should arise where men are out of work or are not suitable, what steps can be taken by municipalities to ensure that this procedure shall be promptly stopped?

Mr. FORKE: If the railways do not place those immigrants, the department has already undertaken to see that they get work. Speakers have referred to instances of unemployment and so on, but except in isolated cases, such conditions have existed in this country for a long time. The hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill) was citing individual cases a little while ago, but it will be found that in any country under the sun there will always be people who will be in circumstances of that kind.

Mr. NEILL: I cited two thousand in Vancouver alone.

Mr. FORKE: I have already received many inquiries from the prairie provinces as to the supply of labour for this summer, because a tremendous amount of work is going to be carried on. I am up against this proposition all the time and any minister of immigration will find himself in the same position. One class of people will say: Bring in plenty of immigrants. Another class seem suspicious of almost every immigrant that sets foot in this country. Some people say: We want only British-born people in this country. Others will say: Get the man with the sheepskin coat because he is the only one who will stay on the farm. The result is that you cannot count on the advice which you receive and you must trust to your own judgment to do the best possible under the circumstances. I am not afraid of any man, who comes to this country in good physical health, not getting plenty of work to do if he is willing to undertake it.

I might say a few words in regard to the three thousand family scheme, as it is commonly known. This is an agreement entered into between the overseas land settlement board and the Department of Immigration whereby the Dominion government undertakes to provide the farms. We have been using farms abandoned under the soldier settlement scheme. That is to say, the Immigration department selects a suitable family on the other side, and undertakes to see that that family receives the assisted passage. We take