

of Quebec, and a larger proportion in Ontario, but the great bulk went west at once. Thousands of them found their way into Western cities, and in time a great many retraced their steps and came to live in cities of the East. These people belonged to diverse races and spoke their own tongues. I quite realize that our population speaking English or French has not yet become accustomed to this cosmopolitan section. It will take one or two generations before these strangers or their descendants feel they are Canadians like the rest of us. They will cease to be regarded as new-comers when they speak the language of the community in which they live. Until the thousands of our people who are at present unemployed are able to obtain work, we should be slow to invite additional immigrants to our shores. In that expression of opinion I am simply repeating what my honourable friend has said. If any one province desires to open its doors to immigrants it should make sure that they will remain on the land and not drift to cities.

Hon. Mr. MULLINS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: We all know that since the natural resources were handed back to the Western Provinces they have the first say as to admission of immigrants into their own territory.

Hon. Mr. SAUVE: May I take it that the honourable leader is expressing the policy of the Government?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Though I have not conferred with my colleagues, I believe I may well say that I am expressing the policy of the present Government.

I would urge that any province desirous of attracting additional population should draw upon our Canadian sources before seeking new-comers from other countries. In this regard I am speaking simply my own view. I believe, though, that this is the view of all thinking and far-sighted men in Canada. We should have no immigration policy which would tend to attract people to our towns and cities, where already there are thousands of unemployed. Our provinces are mainly agricultural. Should any one of them, desirous of increasing its population, prefer to appeal to people of the British Isles or any other outside country rather than to acclimatized Canadians, I hope it will be careful to bring in only such classes as are likely to become good farmers.

Hon. G. LACASSE: Honourable senators, I wish to make only a few remarks. We should be grateful to the honourable senator from Rigaud (Hon. Mr. Sauvé) for having

submitted to the House such a complete and comprehensive study of one of the most important problems facing Canada to-day. I have no hesitation in saying that one of the chief reasons for our present social, political and industrial problems in Canada is the fact that we have too many miles of railroad, main and branch lines, and not enough people. One need only look at the statistics of Canada to observe in what a capricious way, if I may use that term, the population is distributed in different sections.

I think that the address made by the honourable senator from Rigaud should induce each and every one of us to study the Immigration Act and regulations during the coming recess with a view to determining whether it should not be amended, more or less radically if necessary, in order to fit our new needs. As we all know, in most cases before a person is admitted as an immigrant to Canada he has to pledge himself to settle on the land, to become a farmer. His inclinations, ability and previous training are not considered. He may come from the slums of London and not know the difference between a horse and a harrow, but in order to be admitted to Canada he must agree to go on a farm. I think it is necessary only to mention such a state of affairs to show how ridiculous it is. What happens under these conditions? A large number of immigrants, after spending a few weeks or perhaps a month on the land, break away and go to cities, where they get factory jobs, while qualified mechanics who were born in Canada and whose families have long been taxpayers in those cities are out of work. In the district where I live I have known of many such instances. It is not merely a mistake, it is a disgrace, on the part of the Canadian Government—I am not blaming one party more than another—that this kind of thing should go on, decade after decade. The results of such a policy are only too plain to-day. My words may sound a little strong; I may be exaggerating a bit; but it is well that once in a while someone should be bold enough to say such things.

There is one other point that I wish to make. Immigrants from the British Isles are usually preferred by Canadian authorities to immigrants from continental Europe, who may come from countries where agriculture has been developed to a science. Even though they are potentially good farmers, people from the Continent are often segregated and treated in a most unfair way.

My humble suggestion that honourable members study the Immigration Act and regulations during the recess is offered in all earnestness, in the hope that we may later