

knows that it costs more than \$300 to support a university student. Costs are indeed so high that an "honour loan" system has been devised to help students complete their studies when parents cannot meet the expense. I therefore ask the government that the age limit be raised to 25 and the exemption to \$500 per student.

There has been talk in this debate of immigration to boost our population and develop our resources.

In the view of certain hon. members and a certain section of the press, immigration means only immigration from the British Isles. What is this if not racialism, the very doctrine advocated by Hitler, against which we have fought.

Mr. Chairman, I am one of those who consider that this matter must be approached not from the "racial" standpoint but from the standpoint of "need" in the light of the interests of this country, not those of the British empire. It is both an economic and a social problem.

There can be no doubt that our population is not commensurate with our natural wealth. But if we must increase it by means of immigration, let us look to the character and quality of our future citizens.

But what section of the population calls for an increase? The urban or the rural?

At the present time, our cities are overflowing with people who cannot find any living accommodation, due to the scarcity of houses, or are compelled to live in revolting conditions, numerous members of the same family occupying a single room, often unsanitary. Before inviting foreigners to live in our cities, let us first provide homes for our own people.

However, there is one class of immigrants who could be welcomed as the need for them is very acute; I mean domestic helpers. At the present time, servants are unavailable, which constitutes a serious problem for many young families. The best way to increase population is to raise the birth-rate. Let us give our families the opportunity to hire the help they need to bring up their family properly and let us get that help where it is to be found. We will require no additional living accommodation for this purpose, since servants live with the families employing them. I hope the immigration regulations will be amended so as not to allow British subjects only to enter Canada as domestic help, but that the privilege will be extended to people from all countries, provided they are otherwise physically and morally fit.

In the case of the farming community, the situation is quite different, and I have no hesitation in saying that the immigrants we need are agricultural workers.

We have extensive vacant areas, as well as undeveloped natural resources, and there is room in this country for more farmers. Moreover, from a social standpoint, it is desirable that we should bring here farmer immigrants who can more readily be assimilated and have more stability. Workmen travel from one country to another, while people who settle on land stay there permanently.

Since the interest of this country requires agricultural immigrants, let us seek them where they can be found. Would it be in Great Britain? Excellent farmers are certainly not lacking in that country, especially in Scotland and Ireland, and I know a number of Scotchmen and Irishmen who have settled on lands in the countries of Beauharnois, Chateaugay and Huntingdon, and who own splendid farms. But can we hope that a larger number will come here, under the present circumstances? Far from being in a position to export farmers, Great Britain needs more of them. The shortage of industrial labour is so acute in that country that German prisoners of war are being held to alleviate the situation.

The same applies to other war-ridden countries.

On the other hand, there are countries where the rural classes are dissatisfied with their lot and would be only too glad to establish themselves on Canadian farms. Let us not bar them out systematically. We are in need of farm-hands, of miners and forest-workers. Let us, therefore, accept them from whatever country they may come as long as they are carefully selected as to their ability and character in order that no one may come into this country, spread subversive doctrines and stir up trouble.

To sum up in a few words, I say that mass immigration from any country whatever is not a desirable thing. There must be at all times a certain relationship between our birth-rate and the number of our immigrants and we must give newcomers time to assimilate themselves and become true Canadians.

Our immigration policy must be essentially Canadian, based solely on the needs and interests of Canada and of no other country whatsoever. It should not run the risk of making our country the world's dumping ground by opening the door too wide; let this policy be of a welcoming character but nevertheless strict, with selection based on individuals rather than on races.