

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

the United Kingdom as an example of the situation. In the United Kingdom, as everyone knows, there is a shortage of natural resources of every kind. On the other hand, in Canada we have an overproduction of certain goods, especially agricultural production. We are faced with the problem of selling this surplus in other countries overseas, or not selling it at all. That leaves us with the cost of transportation, adding that much more to the cost of our production of food.

In the United Kingdom you have a very large population without sufficient raw materials, or sufficient land to supply its own food. In both instances you have an unbalanced economy; but you have an economy that is out of balance in opposite directions. I would suggest that the economies of both countries could be brought more nearly into balance if we could look at this problem as a real and vital one which concerns the whole world, and the western world especially, and as one of prime importance. It is not a case of bringing in a few people to increase our population or to make some good-looking statistics. It is a vaster problem than that; it is a problem of the redeployment of population to the best advantage of all concerned.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I suggest it would be to the common advantage if a large percentage of the population of the United Kingdom and of course other countries—I use the United Kingdom only as an illustration—could be transplanted to the vast empty spaces of the world. The obvious places of course in the case of the United Kingdom are Canada, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. You will say immediately that is not practicable; it cannot be done readily. The problem is such that we must face it with courage, with energy, and look in every possible direction to find the solution.

In the case of the United Kingdom and its food production I quote from a book called "The Next British Empire" at page 77:

The area of the United Kingdom is 60,153,371 acres, of which about 9 million are agriculturally unproductive. We are therefore using some 51 million acres to produce food in one way or another; and that food amounts to about 38 or 40 per cent of what we consume. My estimate, therefore, on a pro-rata basis without examination of details, could have been as high as 77 million acres, and it is indeed arguable that the United Kingdom is agronomically over-populated to the extent of needing that much additional territory. But we will be satisfied with claiming 69 million only. That means, since we can't get them from the surrounding ocean, that to adjust the balance, the population of the United Kingdom ought to be reduced. By rule of three, seeing that the present population of 47 million would be soundly established as an agronomic unit on 129 million

acres, the proper number of inhabitants for our inexhaustible 60 million acres is no more than 22 million.

In other words if the United Kingdom were to become self-sufficient as far as food is concerned, of course there would still be exports of certain types of food and importations of other types, but on balance if the United Kingdom were to become self-sufficient as far as food production is concerned, it would have to reduce its population to 22 million people.

If we were to embark on a really large scale redeployment of population we would of course be faced with a lot of problems. The first and obvious one is the fact that if a person is an immigrant arriving in a country he is also a migrant when he leaves his former home, and the problem of migration is a very real one. It is obvious that in the economy of a country where the population is expanding, which means that a large percentage of that population is young and virile, things tend to be buoyant and there is expansion. On the other hand, where the population is stationary, as in France, or declining as it is in Ireland, certain problems occur.

That applies not only to nations but to provinces. For instance, the population of my own province of Prince Edward Island has remained practically stationary for the last 80 years, and that has created problems that make the development of our province, so far as roads and that sort of thing are concerned, very expensive, and place on the population a high per capita debt. That situation arose partly because as a province we were not allowed to expand. The three maritime provinces were the only ones that did not acquire large areas of unorganized territory at one time or another, and we had that problem of limited resources and a population which did not increase.

We are going to have the same problems in these countries from which immigrants are going to come. The countries which are acquiring these new citizens should recognize that they are the beneficiaries of the migrations, and they should have certain responsibilities as far as the country which is supplying the immigrants is concerned. For example, in the United Kingdom the per capita debt is something like £514, which is a very heavy debt. Related to that problem, of course, is the problem of convertibility of exchange, which places another impediment in the way of migration. That has already been mentioned. I do not think it is coincidental that the sterling area is, generally speaking, the overpopulated area of the world, and the dollar area is the underpopulated area. I think that situation