

*Immigration Act*

public press in connection with which it is alleged mistakes have been made. I am not by any means prepared to admit that mistakes have occurred,—if the records were searched the facts might be found to indicate the contrary—but if mistakes have occurred in connection with the deportation of people who have no right by law to remain in Canada the number of such cases is negligible having regard to the total number of cases so dealt with by the administrative officers of the department. The present bill if passed would render almost ineffective the provisions of section 3 of the Immigration Act. In order that the meaning of the section may be impressed upon the minds of hon. members I shall take the liberty of reading it. Dealing with prohibited classes the section reads:

No immigrant, passenger or other person, unless he is a Canadian citizen, or has Canadian domicile, shall be permitted—

At this point may I interject that my hon. friend from North Winnipeg made a mistake, no doubt unintentionally. He is wrong when he says that a British subject legally entered into Canada can be deported after residence in this country of five years. That is not correct. He is just as free from deportation as is anybody else.

Mr. HEAPS: No, I said a person entering this country who became naturalized after five years.

Mr. GORDON: They cannot be deported unless they have contravened some provision of the Narcotic Drug Act.

Mr. HEAPS: After a citizen of Europe has been here for five years and become naturalized, is he still subject to deportation?

Mr. GORDON: Only if he contravenes the provisions of the Narcotic Drug Act, as far as my recollection serves me at the moment.

Mr. HEAPS: But in no other event can he be deported?

Mr. GORDON: I do not think so.

Mr. HEAPS: Then there is discrimination between such naturalized aliens and the British born.

Mr. GORDON: Not at all. If a British born person legally enters Canada and resides here for five years and acquires Canadian domicile, he is just as free from deportation as the Canadian-born. This section continues:

—or has Canadian domicile, shall be permitted to enter or land in Canada, or in case of having landed in or entered Canada shall be permitted to remain therein, who belongs to any of the following classes, hereinafter called "prohibited classes"—

[Mr. Gordon.]

Now, this bill if passed in its present or in any other form having the same effect would destroy the purpose of the section that I am now quoting after the immigrant has resided in Canada for a continuous period of ten years. These are the prohibited classes:

(a) Idiots, imbeciles, feeble-minded persons, epileptics, insane persons, and persons who have been insane at any time previously;

That is, previously to their entry.

(b) Persons afflicted with tuberculosis in any form or with any loathsome disease, or with a disease which is contagious or infectious, or which may become dangerous to the public health, whether such persons intend to settle in Canada or only to pass through Canada in transit to some other country: Provided that if such disease is one which is curable within a reasonably short time, such persons may, subject to the regulations in that behalf, if any, be permitted to remain on board ship if hospital facilities do not exist on shore, or to leave ship for medical treatment;

(c) Immigrants who are dumb, blind, or otherwise physically defective, unless in the opinion of a board of inquiry or officer acting as such they have sufficient money, or have such profession, occupation, trade, employment or other legitimate mode of earning a living that they are not liable to become a public charge or unless they belong to a family accompanying them or already in Canada and which gives security satisfactory to the minister against such immigrants becoming a public charge;

(d) Persons who have been convicted of, or admit having committed, any crime involving moral turpitude;

(e) Prostitutes and women and girls coming to Canada for any immoral purpose and pimps or persons living on the avails of prostitution.

(f) Persons who procure or attempt to bring into Canada prostitutes or women or girls for the purpose of prostitution or other immoral purpose;

(g) Professional beggars or vagrants;

(h) Immigrants to whom money has been given or loaned by any charitable organization for the purpose of enabling them to qualify for landing in Canada under this act, or whose passage to Canada has been paid wholly or in part by any charitable organization, or out of public moneys, unless it is shown that the authority in writing of the deputy minister, or in case of persons coming from Europe, the authority in writing of the assistant Superintendent of Immigration for Canada, in London, has been obtained for the landing in Canada of such persons, and that such authority has been acted upon within a period of sixty days thereafter;

Then the section specifies other persons who are prohibited immigrants, and whose entry into Canada cannot be permitted by the exercise of any discretionary power by the minister or by council because of the statutory prohibition. Now, the effect of this bill from one angle is simply that people of these prohibited classes who enter Canada and whose condition, physically or mentally, or whose past record is unknown to the immigration authorities, and continue to live