

Supply—Immigration

General expenses in the British Isles, increased by \$60,000; general expenses in the United States, increased by \$30,000; contingencies and general expenses in Canada, including a larger number of temporary employees at sea ports, detention hospitals, inland agencies, boundary inspection points, etc., increased by \$128,000; printing and stationery, increased by \$22,000; special grants to immigration and colonization societies, increased by \$20,000; postage, telegrams, freight, etc., increased by \$15,000; unforeseen expenses, increased by \$25,000.

I could give a detailed statement of the items. Suffice it to say that there is a desire for increased immigration, but that immigration requires careful inspection as to quality rather than quantity. We are more or less hampered by the fact that we are unable to take a very large number of desirable immigrants who would come to Canada if positions could be found for them, because as you know, Mr. Chairman, there is little or no employment to be found for outside people as mechanics, artisans, or in the professional walks of life, so we are confined pretty much to agriculturists, household workers, and agricultural labour. I am hopeful, however, that that condition will improve. We have been making special efforts in the Old Land. We are trying to make the examination a little more rigid both in Great Britain and on the Continent, in order that we may not have to return so many who are unable to pass the test on this side of the water. This entails additional expense. Up to the moment, the staffs have not been increased to any very great extent. In the United States, we have an increase of about three over the staff of last year, working in the central states, and an increase of one in the New England states. In Great Britain, up to the moment we have not found it advisable to put on larger staffs. But next fall when our plans are perfected, it is our intention to put on propaganda work and to do considerable advertising both in Great Britain and the United States, and for this purpose we shall require a considerable amount of money. I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, that it is my hope to keep well within the estimate, but I do think also that the opportunity offers, provided we have sufficient money, to get desirable settlers that we constantly hear are leaving Great Britain for Australia rather than coming to Canada.

Mr. MACLAREN: I want to ask the minister if it is not possible for immigrants, coming, say, from Glasgow, Liverpool, London and other ports, to be medically examined at those ports in such a

[Mr. Charles Stewart.]

way that they would be definitely passed as suitable for admission to Canada. I think there are many cases where immigrants could be definitely, not provisionally, passed, and given the assurance that they would be accepted by proper examination at those ports. In that way I feel that the number who would be required to be returned would be very much reduced. It will soon become known to people who propose coming to Canada that if they take the opportunity of going to suitable officers, say, in Great Britain especially, they could definitely know if they would be admitted to this country. It is too bad that they should be allowed to come out here, after selling their goods and chattels, and then be rejected. I would draw the attention to the minister to the desirability of working out suitable plans for a more definite acceptance of immigrants before they leave their native shores.

Mr. MILLAR: I would like to draw the minister's attention to a matter that was brought to my notice recently, from which it would almost seem that some of the regulations, or some of the provisions of the Immigration Act, tend to defeat the purpose of the department in trying to get settlers. The case that has been brought to my attention is that of a Russian now living in Germany. His cousin is a farmer in the constituency which I have the honour to represent, whom I know to be a good farmer and good settler. He recently made a request to the Immigration Department that his cousin be permitted to come from Germany to work for him on the farm, but at present, it seems, the law does not permit Germans to enter Canada. In his second letter to me he pointed out that his cousin, although living in Germany, was really a Russian. I would ask if it is the intention of the department to continue this arrangement, or whether there is any thought of changing it in the near future.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I will first answer the question of my hon. friend from St. John (Mr. MacLaren) with respect to medical inspection. I may say that my first thought on taking over the department was to see if it were possible to have the medical inspection at the port of embarkation, or prior to the selling by persons of their homes and immigrating to Canada, but I found it would mean that we would have to establish medical men of our own both in Great Britain and on the continent, and furthermore that such medical