

Irrigation

Mr. Drew: I should have covered that and shown you up for what you are.

Mr. Fournier (Maisonnette-Rosemont): And the customs inquiry.

Mr. Probe: Mr. Chairman, I can assure you that there are a large number of backbenchers in the House of Commons who will welcome the early dissolution of parliament if for no other reason than that we will have some relief for a short time at least from the sort of one-man show that we have had to listen to for a couple of months now.

Mr. Fraser: It is getting under your skin.

Mr. Probe: It is not getting under our skin except that there are some 245 members of the House of Commons who are here to present the points of view of their constituents, and to attempt to get the work of government completed. I was amazed at the speech just concluded because of the very bitter doubt that was voiced by the leader of the opposition about the safety of air travel in Canada.

Mr. Jackman: He did not mention safety.

Mr. Probe: I am not, by any stretch of imagination, supporting the government—

Mr. Fraser: You did with your vote.

Mr. Probe: —but from my experience and the statistical record of T.C.A. and the North Star aircraft, I feel that we have an air service in Canada that is second to none in the world. As a Canadian I want to be fair to Canadian institutions and to Canadian craftsmanship and, where there is any evidence of it, to Canadian good management.

For the reasons I have stated, an opportunity has been denied us to bring forward serious public problems during the session which is likely to conclude in a few hours. I would like to have supported the hon. member for Battle River (Mr. Fair) in what he had to say a short time ago about the granting of clear titles to our soldier settlers. No one has fought more keenly in their interests than that hon. member, the hon. member for Melfort (Mr. Wright), the hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. McKay) and others, but the government is still sticking to the form of contract made thirty or more years ago.

I am sorry the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) has failed to return for these last few days. Last autumn when speaking on behalf of the hon. member for Rosthern (Mr. Boucher) during the by-election he assured the people of Saskatchewan that at an early date important irrigation developments would be carried on in that province. The minister is not here to deny the accusation I make that he is continuously making promises of that kind for narrow partisan or

[Mr. Abbott.]

political advantage. His business is here rather than out in the country in advance of the closing of this twentieth parliament.

On the prairies we need water more than any other single physical thing on this earth and some clue should be given by the government as to when it is going to relieve the dust bowls of Canada with water that is now being wasted by flowing to Hudson bay.

There is another item of considerable importance which I should like to toss at the government this afternoon—the need for a more enlightened immigration policy. For some four hundred years—it is slightly longer than that since Jacques Cartier first claimed Canada for France—the natural increase in population, plus immigration, has averaged only slightly more than 30,000 new Canadians annually. That is not good enough for a land which occupies such an important position and which has such vast resources as the country we call our own. It is not good enough that north of the forty-ninth parallel of latitude we populate at the rate of 30,000 souls a year when below the line the increase of population is at least eleven to twelve times as great.

I can testify that the policy of the Canadian government with respect to immigration is one of almost absolute exclusion. Two weeks ago I heard a delegation from the Canadian-German league and the German-Canadian association, the one a dominion group and the other a Saskatchewan provincial group. They made representations that German nationals are now being excluded by only one country in the world, Canada. Great Britain, Australia, South Africa, France, New Zealand and the United States admit settlers from Germany under certain conditions.

Since the war the policy of the government with respect to the entry of new settlers into Canada has followed the lead of influential employer groups who want a reserve pool of labour. I imagine that if the hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Dionne) were to comment upon his Polish immigration scheme of a few years ago he would say that it could be described as a complete flop.

Many hon. members have taken up the cases of citizens of Canada or naturalized Canadians who desire to bring relatives to this country and who are ready to give assurance that they will guarantee to provide all things necessary until these desirable immigrants are themselves Canadian citizens. Every form of delay and obstruction has been placed in their path by the officials and employees of the immigration department. The employees of that department seem to have the complex that new Canadians are