

on the part of the educational authorities, with the assistance of the department administered by the Secretary of State, to give these people the full opportunity they need to equip themselves for everything that will make them good citizens; because this country, when they do become citizens, will be the better for it.

Mr. MARTIN: I agree; and I thought I had said that we intend to do that. I pointed out that we have already discussed the matter with several of the provincial ministers of education. The act has not been proclaimed. The new citizenship branch has just come over to my department, and we are trying to establish the work along solid lines.

Education is a matter for the provinces, and we would not want to do anything which would interfere with their prerogatives as determined by the constitution. We intend in each province to work in cooperation, doing all we can to give information to potential Canadians along lines that will receive not only the understanding and approval but also the full and hearty cooperation of provincial governments. We have had some discussion with several of these, and I hope before too long the officers of the department and I will be able to continue the discussions with other provinces.

Mr. MacINNIS: After the explanation given by the minister, may I add something to what has been said by the hon. member for Eglinton? I do not believe anyone who has given thought or study to the matter of immigration in the past could but be appalled at the exploitation of immigrants who have come to this country. No attempt whatsoever was made to teach them their duties or to inform them of their duties, obligations and rights. Advantage was taken of their lack of understanding of our customs and institutions.

I believe the intentions of the minister are good, because he is interested in education and the great need for it. But the vagueness of the proposals for meeting these needs would serve to show the inadequacy of anything already done. Something positive must be done so that provincial governments will make this part of their duties. These immigrants are children, in the sense that they must be instructed in the knowledge of the constitution of our country. They must be told about their rights and duties as citizens and their relationship to the rest of the community, so that they will have a clear understanding of such matters

I believe it would have the greatest psychological effect in making good citizens of these people if, immediately upon their com-

ing to this country, they were told or if they were made aware that the state had an interest in them, and was interested in seeing that they had an opportunity to do what was best for themselves and for their adopted country. I hope the minister does not leave this matter with the Imperial Order, Daughters of the Empire, or any other organization. It is too important for that.

Mr. MARTIN: I agree with what the hon. member has said. He and the committee at large may be assured that I have a definite interest in this problem. I have felt that there has been a great lack of interest in these proceedings. We want to help these new Canadians, and to inform them, when coming into this national community, that in addition to duties they will have certain privileges.

I have tried to indicate my position. I do not make this as a personal observation, but simply to indicate the spirit in which we are trying to approach this problem. I should point out that as Secretary of State I have written to every person who has been naturalized since I have become minister, extending to each one a welcome, telling something of Canada and pointing out that now they are here they can consider this their country, just as do those of us who were born here, and inviting them to help in every possible way.

Although we have not yet had full opportunity to discuss the matter with the provinces, we have had discussions with Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and have moved through their adult educational branches. I am on the advisory board of the adult educational association of Canada, having held that office before I became minister. It is our hope that we may use agencies such as that, as well as provincial departments of education, to carry out a systematic programme of work which will be both instructive and helpful, and in an effort not to leave new Canadians in the lurch. We have no desire to say, "Well, we have accepted you, but with reservations." We want to avoid that kind of impression with its results.

Let me assure the committee that my approach to this problem will not be the result of any vague plan. But before one can have a plan he must have the cooperation of the provincial departments of education. We are proceeding with that preliminary, and when we have succeeded we hope to be in a position to enlist not only the cooperation of departments of education, with our citizenship branch, but the cooperation of agencies and organizations such as the workers' educa-