

*Immigration Act*

its population by way of immigration. If our population is nine millions at present then four hundred and fifty thousand a year would be the maximum that we could absorb in immigration. These figures are based on the experience of the United States, but I fancy that they would apply to this country as well. I am satisfied that we shall not reach anywhere near that mark this year; indeed, I doubt whether we have ever come near it. I think however that we should seriously consider the question. We all seem to agree on this point, that we want more people in this country. I doubt whether we are retaining to-day the natural increase of the country, and immigration is the greatest need of Canada. Now that the opportunity has come through the operation of the quota law in the United States, which enables us to pick and choose our immigration, let us see to it that we do not miss that opportunity but that we shall at the right moment make a wise selection.

Mr. HOCKEN: I would suggest to the minister that some extraordinary efforts be made to bring out young boys from sixteen to twenty and place them on the farms of Canada. Some hon. gentlemen are suggesting that these boys are no good. I do not agree with that. I know as a fact that a certain British society brought out 200 boys to this country and as a result of the placing of 40 of them on farms in Carleton and adjacent counties applications were made for 200 more. The farmers when they saw the kind of boys that had been brought out were glad to take steps to have more brought out. A boy between sixteen and twenty could remain four or five years on a farm, and if he had reasonable intelligence he would be a fair farmer by the time he came of age. More than that, if he remained that length of time on the farm he would have become accustomed to farm life and would no doubt desire to acquire some land for himself. If he were placed with a man of good repute and of ability as a farmer he would be trained not only in this desirable occupation but he would have a moral education as well; he would lead a good social life and become a creditable citizen. According to the statistics that have been presented to me there are hundreds of thousands of boys of this age in the Old Country who find it extremely difficult to get work there. I am told that most of the trades unions in the United Kingdom compel the employer to pay to a boy over

10 p.m. sixteen years of age a man's wages.

That is done in order to prevent boys from displacing men and it makes it im-

[Mr. Guthrie.]

possible for young fellows of seventeen and eighteen to get work. There are therefore available any number of boys who could be brought out here and trained as agriculturists and put in the way not only of doing well for themselves but of adding materially to the prosperity of the country. I would urge the minister to have a thorough investigation made into the conditions I have mentioned with a view to bringing out, not a few hundreds, but ten or twenty or a hundred thousand boys and properly placing them with people who would give them the right sort of education in their lifework and bring them up under wholesome influences so that they might become good citizens.

Mr. LEWIS: Are we to infer that boys of over sixteen who are given men's wages in the Old Country will receive men's wages when they come here?

Mr. HOCKEN: I do not think that boys would expect men's wages here, because they would not have had the training.

Mr. LEWIS: Would they get any wages at all?

Mr. HOCKEN: Oh yes, they do get wages when they come out because one of the stipulations of the society in placing them is that they shall receive some compensation. More than that, before any boy leaves the Home there is a place for him to go to. His parents know where he is going; they are in correspondence with him from the very day he lands here so that they are able to keep track of him and he keeps track of his relatives. Under the operation of this plan I think the very best results ought to be obtained. I do not say that a boy coming out here should get a man's wages; he should not. He is learning something. He is serving an apprenticeship, but he is getting a good living; he is learning a trade and he will not go hungry or without clothes. He will also have a certain amount of social life that will develop him as the kind of citizen we want in Canada.

Mr. NEILL: I rise to a point of order. Under the happier auspices of your presence, Sir, and encouraged by the support I got from the hon. member for Centre Winnipeg (Mr. Woodsworth) and the Acting Minister of Finance (Mr. Robb) when I raised the question previously, I submit that this discussion is out of order. We are dealing with section 2 of the bill, which is confined entirely to the question whether this government can compel a transportation company to deport the family of a deported man. I have no wish to curtail the expression of