

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

THE SENATE,

WEDNESDAY, April 23, 1947.

The Standing Committee on Immigration and Labour, which was authorized and directed to examine into the Immigration Act, met this day at 10.30 a.m.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: Honourable senators, we have a quorum and I think we might now proceed. As one distinguished senator has intimated, he wanted to get away rather early. Now, we have with us this morning Mr. Jolliffe, Director of Immigration, and Dr. H. L. Keenleyside, recently appointed Deputy Minister, Department of Mines and Resources, who is also interested in the immigration question. Now, if there are no objections, we will hear from Mr. Jolliffe first.

Witness: Mr. A. L. Jolliffe, Director of Immigration, Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa.

Mr. JOLLIFFE: I have prepared a statement in accordance with your suggestion which, with your permission, I shall now read.

The CHAIRMAN: I understand there are not sufficient copies for us all to have one now, but we will have it in the record a little later.

Mr. Jolliffe:

STATEMENT OF A. L. JOLLIFFE

DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION

In giving evidence before this Committee on May 21, 1946, I described in some detail the organization of the Immigration Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources and explained its functions. I also dealt with the provisions of the Immigration Act, particularly relating to the authority on which the regulations governing the admission of immigrants is based, the classes of persons both admissible and prohibited, the procedure for admission, rejection, deportation and right of appeal from a rejection or deportation order. As this information is on record, I presume you will not desire that the same be furnished again.

Perhaps it will be useful if I briefly summarize the immigration situation as it existed early last year and then record the developments of the ensuing eleven months. It will be recalled that from 1930 the number of immigrants admitted to Canada each year steadily decreased due to the depression and the changes made in the regulations necessitated by the general economic conditions. During the first four years of the war overseas immigration practically ceased. All this time the regulations provided for the admission of British subjects as specifically defined, United States citizens from the United States, the wife and unmarried child under 18 years of age of residents of Canada, agriculturalists with funds intending to farm in Canada.

Following the cessation of hostilities the primary activities of the Immigration Branch and other government agencies concerned with the movement of people to Canada from overseas were directed toward the return of Canadians