

Supply—Immigration

Representations have been made in the past week, and the engineer is pursuing it along that line.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Is the department still considering improving the wharf at Shelter bay on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, or has a decision been reached?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I have not the information here with regard to that particular proposition. There is nothing in the estimates for it this year. It has been urged for some considerable time. Again it involves a large expenditure on a new undertaking, and as my hon. friend knows, as these expenditures are made from revenue, and the revenues have been falling, the policy of the department has been not to undertake a new work except where the circumstances render it absolutely necessary. Shelter bay will not be lost sight of, and probably some day we shall be able to take care of it.

Item agreed to.

IMMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION

Soldier and General Land Settlement—amount required for soldier land settlement advances, for advances under the British family schemes recoverable from the British government, for the cost of administration of soldier settlement and general land settlement and for the cost of administration of soldier settlement staff performing investigations for the war veterans' allowance committee, \$1,500,000.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I should like to have from the minister an explanation of the lease rental system on a third share crop basis which is being put into force, not generally but in individual cases in western Canada. I have discussed this with the minister and received reasonable satisfaction, but for the sake of those in the country who are interested I would ask the minister to give an explanation of the system.

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Acting Minister of Immigration and Colonization): The soldier settlement board has endeavoured to conform to the law of the provinces and to their practice with respect to taking a third or a quarter or some other portion of the crop to apply against indebtedness. I believe Alberta has introduced and passed legislation that decreases the amount of the percentage of the crop which they will take from the settler-farmer from one-third to one-quarter, but only in areas to be prescribed by the province. So far as soldier settlement is concerned, I think it desirable that we pursue a course in conformity with the policy of the province. I think it would be unfair to have a certain class of settlers follow a course that

[Mr. H. A. Stewart.]

is different from the course pursued by their neighbours, but so far as I know the province of Alberta has not proclaimed any areas.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: May I ask if the policy of signing these agreements is generally in practice, or is it followed only where the settler has fallen in arrears so far as to make his future position extremely uncertain? In other words, is this a rental system that is taking the place of an agreement for sale and permitting the man to carry on as a renter instead, or is it simply an agreement by which a maximum portion of the crop will be set as that which may be taken in payment of his annual interest and principal charges?

Mr. RHODES: Mr. Chairman, this is Wednesday, and unless we have a motion we shall not be able to sit and conclude our business this evening. That motion will have to be made while Mr. Speaker is in the chair. Therefore I move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again this day.

Progress reported.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEDNESDAY EVENING SITTING

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): I have refrained until the last minute from making a motion, hoping against hope that we might conclude by six o'clock. As it is now clear that we will not do so I beg to move, seconded by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Rhodes) that this house be not adjourned at six o'clock this day. Then we can resume this evening at eight o'clock and the rules prevailing will be those for Tuesday. Of course this must be done by consent.

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): I have no objection whatever to sitting this evening, and I presume that the business can be easily concluded before eleven o'clock, but for my part I should like to have a distinct understanding that if the business is not concluded by that hour the house will then adjourn. It seems useless to sit up all hours of the night in an attempt to finish the business. I should like to make a special plea that some consideration in these circumstances should be given the Hansard staff, who I happen to know are almost at the end of their endurance, working these long hours, morning, afternoon and evening. If it is understood that we will adjourn not later than eleven o'clock, in the regular way, I am quite willing to sit this evening.

Mr. BENNETT: I think perhaps the hon. gentleman is not aware of the fact that after