

contrary his competitor is subsidized. He himself came here at his own charge; he saved and scraped enough money to come to this country. His competitor is a man newly out from the old country, or from southern Europe, who has got to take a lower wage, in the latter case because of his inability to understand our language. That man is subsidized to come here, subsidized at our expense and at the expense of the working man with whom he is going to compete. That is what organized labour in British Columbia objects to; it objects that its competitor should be subsidized. Let these men come to Canada if they want to, but let them come at their own expense. But organized labour objects to an organized system of government assistance to bring in unskilled labour to compete with the already overlaid surplus that is in Canada to-day. I have gone somewhat off my subject, but I would join again with the hon. member for Acadia in asking for a definite statement of the policies of the government and a brief explanation of the various schemes by which labour is brought to this country.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): The minister is a little backward in giving the explanation to which the House is entitled.

Mr. FORKE: I rise with no other intention.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I know, but you were sitting there very quiet.

Mr. FORKE: I am getting old and stiff and it takes me some time to get up. But I should like to reply to what the hon. member for West Calgary said about permits. I wish the stopping of permits were as easy and plain as he seems to think it is. We have the Immigration Act, the regulations and the orders in council which lay down the law exactly in the matter of the admission of immigrants into the Dominion, but unfortunately there is a clause which permits the minister to override all these rules and regulations and orders in council. If this was only a matter of business, it might be easily got over, but elements of compassion enter into the circumstances so that a man is often compelled, simply on compassionate grounds, to issue permits.

Mr. BENNETT: Send the permit direct to the person.

Mr. FORKE: I can assure the committee that I would like to do so. Since I came into the department my heart has been sore many a time over the question of issuing permits

because I could see how much suffering and grief was caused to persons anxious to get permits when I could not conscientiously see my way clear to issue them. I have no sympathy whatever for people who use these permits in order to make money, and if I can stop this practice it will be stopped. Unfortunately, however, people who have a reasonable right to expect to get a permit do not go directly to the department but to some lawyer or a member of parliament or someone else. I am not making any accusation against anyone, but the way in which this is carried on, I do not know whether someone is getting \$50 or not on account of managing to get these permits. I will endeavour to stop this practice and I will issue permits only when I feel that they ought to be issued. I am sure that since I have come into the Department of Immigration there has been no increase in the number of permits issued.

Mr. GARDINER: What circumstances make it necessary to issue permits at all?

Mr. FORKE: Under present regulations only those engaged in certain occupations can come into Canada from Europe. They must be farmers, farm workers, or domestic servants. For instance, supposing a Jewish family, because they are perhaps better able than many others to assist friends on the other side, want to bring out a relative. A permit is required for this, and it seems to be a reasonable thing to issue that permit because the family on this side may be well off and the relatives on the other side may be in destitute circumstances. It takes a pretty hard-hearted man in a case of that kind to refuse to issue a permit, and similar cases come up all the time. Perhaps someone may be in perfect health but have some physical defect such as wanting an arm, or something of that kind. Under the regulations he cannot come into this country without a permit, and we have to come to a decision whether or not we shall issue a permit allowing a person with a physical defect of that kind to enter this country.

I have been asked to give a statement of the policy of the Immigration department in regard to immigration. I would be delighted to do so if I had a properly prepared statement so that I could give the committee all the information in as concise a manner as possible. But I had no expectation that I would be called upon this afternoon to make any such lengthy explanation, and I am afraid if I entered into any detailed account of the different activities of the department it would take me perhaps two hours to cover the