

Ministerial Statements

various churches and several voluntary organizations. The members of the Quebec Immigrant Welfare have always worked in close co-operation with the officials of the immigration branch in the reception, not only of Hungarian refugees, but of all immigrants passing through Quebec. Le Bien-Être des Immigrants has agreed, at the request of the Archbishop of Quebec, to look after the welfare of Hungarian refugees who are in transit in Quebec city, as well as those who decide to establish themselves in that area. Le Bien-Être des Immigrants de Québec is one of the numerous voluntary organizations in Canada which have generously agreed to look after the welfare of the Hungarian refugees. They have assisted the immigration officials in establishing nearly 300 Hungarian families in Quebec city.

Since last Wednesday officials of my department have communicated with the officials of that organization and they have advised that they are aware of what the Canadian government has agreed to do for the Hungarian refugees and, so far, they have preferred to provide welfare to the Hungarian refugees without calling on financial assistance from the Canadian government. They have told the officials of my department that, if they were in need of financial assistance from the Canadian government, they would not hesitate to ask for it but, so far, they have preferred to look after the Hungarian refugees as a Christian charity without any financial assistance from the government.

I should like therefore to take advantage of this opportunity to thank the members of Le Bien-Être des Immigrants de Québec for their good work and their public-spirited attitude, and to thank them in the name of the immigrants for all they are doing to welcome our future Canadians whose first experience of Canada is the warm reception given to them at Quebec city, though most of the immigrants are just passing through on their way to other parts of the country.

If I may be permitted to add a postscript I would suggest that perhaps the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dufresne) might find out the next time whether an organization really wants this kind of question raised in the house.

HEBRIDES—REPORTED DESIRE OF SCOTSMEN
TO SETTLE IN NEWFOUNDLAND

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. In view of press reports that some 2,500 Scotsmen wish to leave their island in the outer Hebrides to "the English and their [Mr. Pickersgill.]

rockets", and move to one of the outer islands of Newfoundland, can the minister say what arrangements are being made to meet this request?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): I must say that if this story is true, which I have not had the opportunity to find out, I commend their good judgment.

INCOME TAX

ALBERTA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA—STATEMENT
ON STATUS OF DIVIDEND PAYMENTS

Hon. J. J. McCann (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 7, some hon. members raised questions regarding the taxation of payments which certain provincial governments have announced they will be making to citizens of their respective provinces. At that time I did not have before me the exact terms of these proposals but since then my officials in the taxation division have examined copies of the bills which are being introduced in these provincial legislatures.

Alberta

Bill No. 95 of the Alberta provincial legislature provides for the establishment of a citizens' dividend fund to be made up of one-third of all revenues derived by that province as oil and gas royalties from provincial lands. Out of this fund the provincial treasurer will annually declare a dividend to citizens of Alberta in an amount to be determined by the lieutenant governor in council.

Taxability: It is the opinion of officials of my department that these dividends are income and taxable as such under the Income Tax Act.

Tax credit: As the province of Alberta is not itself a taxpayer under the Income Tax Act, these dividends are not subject to the 20 per cent tax credit. That credit is only given in respect of dividends from Canadian corporations which pay income tax on corporate profits before paying dividends to shareholders.

Depletion allowance: It is also the opinion of my officials that these dividends will not be subject to a depletion allowance under the Income Tax Act and regulations.

British Columbia

In British Columbia, Bill No. 14 in the provincial legislature provides for assistance to residential home owners. The plan is that a rebate will be given against municipal taxes to home owners in respect of taxes on the homes occupied by them. The home owner