

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

same sections of the press and those same interests are generally decrying the fact that industrial workers are receiving too much money. They are decrying the fact that costs are going up, and they attribute the rise in those costs to the rising wage scales.

There are many special interests involved in bringing immigrants to this country. I would think that one of the minister's difficulties, one he must guard against in the interests of the whole country, is that he must see to it that the immigrants brought to this country are not brought here by any special interests, to serve those interests primarily. What we want in this country are immigrants who will become good Canadians, who are brought here for that purpose, and are not brought here for the purpose of serving any particular interest.

I suppose we have always been faced with the problem of employers interested in immigration for the sake of getting cheap labour. We have that class of employer with us today, and I am quite sure the minister would be the last person who would want to encourage immigration to serve special economic interests and to reduce the scale of wages for Canadian workers. It does not matter what that special group is, whether it is a religious group, a national group or an economic group, if that group is particularly interested in bringing immigrants to this country for the purpose of furthering the interests of that particular group, then I think the minister has to be on guard. We do not want this country filled up merely for the sake of filling it up with immigrants who are brought here to serve any particular interested group. As I have said before, in the interests of Canada, we want immigrants who will become worthy and loyal Canadian citizens.

I have a few special problems that I want to bring to the minister's attention. They are of a general nature and I think had better be brought up at this particular point. I have already spoken of employers bringing immigrants into this country for the sake of reducing our wage scale. Since early June I have had on the order paper a series of some thirteen questions, which were made an order for return a week ago, but the answers to which I have no hope whatever of receiving this session. These questions relate to one employer, the R. F. Welch company. Among other questions on the order paper, which probably the minister can answer today, are these: What arrangement, if any, has the R. F. Welch company with the department of immigration for the purpose of bringing immigrant workers to

this country? Is my information correct that this particular company had an office established in some European countries, offices established on the maritime coast and offices established in the Union station at Toronto, next door to the government's own department of immigration? What is the nature of the contracts under which these workers are brought in by that company?

My information is that the immigrants brought into this country by that particular company are brought to work first of all on the Canadian National Railways. I am informed by trade union organizers that these newly arrived immigrants stay but a short time on their first job, and then are replaced by a new batch of immigrants. I am informed by the general chairman of the brotherhood of maintenance of way employees of the Canadian National Railways that the Canadian National Railways itself has been evading the order of a labour relations board, dated November, 1951, by transferring these newly arrived workers to the R. F. Welch company for payroll purposes, instead of keeping them on the Canadian National, and consequently are keeping these men employed at much lower rates than the rates fixed in the contract entered into with the workers union.

That is one problem I want to call to the minister's attention. Another complaint I get is that certain employers are able to persuade newly arrived immigrants that if they join a trade union, or participate in trade union activities, they will be deported. I should like the minister to tell us that personally. I doubt if anyone—

Mr. Harris: May I say at this moment I never heard of such a matter from anyone, and if my hon. friends know of any trade unions who have that complaint, will they please send it to me and talk about it with me before they bring it up here in this house. I have no objection to my hon. friend speaking, of course, but it is really unfortunate that we now hear for the first time of complaints that I have no opportunity to investigate.

Mr. Noseworthy: This whole matter can be cleared up with a statement from the minister to the effect that no one is ever deported from this country because he joined a legitimate trade union or participated in legitimate trade union activities.

Mr. Harris: I say that unhesitatingly, and if anybody suggested that that should be so I would oppose it in this house.