

retain our present industries? I have already referred to the industry at Dartmouth. My hon. friend has expressed his views as a supporter of the government, but again I ask him to use his influence in conjunction with the hon. Minister of National Defence and the hon. member for Antigonish-Guysborough (Mr. Duff) to do everything possible to protect this industry as well as other industries in Nova Scotia. Let him and his colleagues adopt the British motto; What we have we hold. I am not playing politics. I make this request because I owe it as a duty to my people in Nova Scotia, and particularly I owe it as a duty to the five hundred Canadians, most of them born and bred in the province, who if this industry is closed down will have to cross the border and join many of their brothers and sisters who have already been forced to seek their livelihood in the United States. Once more I ask my hon. friends from Nova Scotia who sit opposite to bend all their energies to prevent that and other industries in our native province from closing down, and so safeguard the interests of our people.

Mr. J. J. E. GUERIN (St. Ann): Mr. Speaker, it was not my intention to address the house to-night, but the eloquence of my fellow-countryman who has just sat down (Mr. Quinn) in connection with the case which has attained such prominence in this debate has left me no alternative. I share his sympathy for the family, but I do not think he rightly appreciates what was wrong with the McConachie child. From what I can gather, this child is a cretin; that is, an infant born without a thyroid gland. This gland governs the development, mental as well as physical, of the child. Consequently, the child was born an idiot, and nothing could possibly change its condition; it was born an idiot and is bound to continue so. It is not difficult to diagnose the malady, for it has peculiar characteristics. To begin with, the skull is enlarged with a receding forehead, the mouth droops, the tongue protrudes, the eyes glare into vacancy, spittle is constantly running down the cheeks, and wherever the child is placed it is absolutely unconscious of its surroundings. So far as intelligence is concerned, the child is practically born dead. I profoundly sympathize with the parents, but at the same time, *dura lex sed lex*. You cannot change the law, and if no latitude is permitted, I do not think it was ever intended to admit idiots. Consequently there is nothing to be done.

Mr. QUINN: I understand my hon. friend is a medical man. May I say that I saw the

[Mr. Quinn.]

child personally and was informed that the symptoms that have been described were not apparent.

Mr. GUERIN: It is a question of appreciation. With his training and experience in other matters the hon. gentleman may be an excellent judge of some things, but I submit that a physician who practises medicine and who is prepared to stake his reputation as an officer of the government that such a disease exists in a particular instance must be believed. We must take his word.

Mr. QUINN: Why did not the two medical men on the other side, the doctor on the roster and the doctor in Glasgow, observe these things?

Mr. GUERIN: It shows the wisdom of the government's new policy in sending Canadian physicians to the other side to vouch for these facts. There has been considerable argument on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite against the extravagance of the government in sending Canadian physicians to determine the health of proposed immigrants, but I think this is a case that proves the wisdom of the government, for it shows that there will be no possibility of contradiction in the future. Once immigrants are passed by one of our own physicians they will naturally be accepted by this country. If the expectation of life in the case of a child were brief it might be all right to admit it; but the fact is that children of this description live for many years. They grow up to the age of twenty or thirty, continuing in the same state of infantile decrepitude as when they were born. They acquire the faculty of eating and drinking but they remain permanently in a condition of oblivion so far as everything around them is concerned. I do not for one moment wish to imply that I have not every possible sympathy with the parents of such a child; but there is a very serious principle involved, and if we are going to admit immigrants of that class there should be something in the law to permit it. The law is there and it cannot be altered unless someone is prepared to shoulder the responsibility. As regards the insane, I may point out that the asylums will not admit a child in this category even supposing that child is grown in years. An insane person, to be admitted into an asylum, must be dangerous to himself or to his neighbours or must be a cause of public scandal. An infant proper, or a grown-up infant, if we may use that expression, does not come within this category, and such a child becomes a load on its parents; it must be looked after, nursed and coddled during the