

altering our whole economic structure. It is the one thing which will pull us out of the doldrums of upset international trade. The world is hungry for gold. The United States is hungry for gold.

An hon. MEMBER: The world is hungry for wheat.

Mr. ADAMSON: They are hungry for wheat, yes, but we do not get paid for it. I have no quarrel with that; we must do what we can to prevent mass starvation. But I do say that gold is the one thing that the nations of the world have ever put any trust in. We can use our gold for our own advantage and become a great international trading country, or we can continue with our present policies, in which event I say in all seriousness that we face bankruptcy. That choice rests with this parliament.

Mr. DAVID CROLL (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, if there is a single topic which has been thoroughly debated throughout the length and breadth of this land, that topic is immigration. This perplexing problem will continue to agitate this nation for many days. As this house knows, many speakers—including repeaters like myself—have discussed the subject from the social, economic, moral and humanitarian aspect. While, on the practical level, there has been a nation-wide demand from every walk of life for more people, yet the doors of this country have been opened only a crack. We still say to the world at large, "If you are lucky enough to come within a few narrow categories, you may enter at some time in the future." To the others we simply say, "We have not been able to make up our minds." I do not want to derogate from the little we have done to open Canada's narrow gate. It is at least a beginning, though its greatest fault, as I see it, is that it is vague, indefinite, wholly inadequate, and will bring us only a trickle. Yet one thing we have achieved. In common with other hon. members I hailed the statement made in this house by the Minister of Mines and Resources (Mr. Glen), when he announced that there would be no discrimination against any group or class of immigrants. That all will be treated alike is in itself a victory. It was undignified for the government and an insult to the foreign-born among us that certain people were preferred. Now this invidious distinction has been removed in principle, and I trust the department will not fail to do away with it in practice.

There are two fundamental bases for the opening of immigration. The first is our obligation and our desire to help the war-stricken areas of Europe. This is a limited,

short-term humanitarian plan, but it is not an immigration policy. The second is the long-term development of Canada. I bring to the attention of the house a booklet recently issued by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. MacKinnon), referred to as "educational bulletin No. 1, 1947, Canadian census occupational data for counsellors", containing some 165 pages. Rather than give my view, I give the opinion of the *Montreal Gazette*, as expressed this morning. They say:

Support for the general view that increased immigration is essential is now offered from an additional and surprising source; the dominion bureau of statistics in a report on census occupational data. The figures, tables, charts and conclusions of the bureau report are as coldly practical as they are irreproachably accurate mathematically.

Unmoved by sentiment, unswayed by prejudice, uninstructed in political considerations, the bureau of statistics argues from the basis of collated facts and nothing more. Its presentation begins at the beginning. It arrives by way of charts of figures at the only logical conclusion arithmetically. And it proves its opinion that "only a robust immigration policy could provide such expanding home markets as were previously available," whilst the Canadian birthrate is stationary or declining.

Further:

If Canada is to maintain its present standard of living and develop its natural resources—still largely unexplored, unexploited and unharnessed—while taking its appropriate place in the comity of nations, it must fill some part of its empty places with men and women from other lands; men and women working together for themselves and for Canada.

A generous immigration policy is not only humanitarian, it is the best tradition of enlightened self-interest.

To date, Mr. Speaker, we have done very little under both these heads; not enough either to relieve the basic need or to salve our own conscience, as continuing demands from home and abroad would indicate. We are profoundly uneasy about immigration. We know we must adopt some positive plan; yet we seem to do so reluctantly. Instead of formulating a broad, clearly defined policy, we juggle around the regulations, raising the age limit here and including another small category there, until even the immigration officials are as confused as are members of the public. It is true that a fifteen-year negative mentality is hard to change, but that is our task.

I shall deal with the immediate aspects of this problem. The question of refugees and displaced persons is a vital one, not only for the displaced persons themselves, who have been driven from their homes and have spent long years at forced labour and in concentration camps, but for the future peace and welfare of the whole world. Not until the disruptions and disorganizations of war have