

*Immigration Act*

we should see to it that we have a forward looking immigration policy embodying the three cardinal principles I have mentioned: first, immigration from the mother country; second, immigration from our allies; third, along the lines of an empire policy on trade, defence and migration within the empire, so that we shall have coming to this country skilled workmen in many and diversified callings, who can read and write, people who speak our language and who can contribute something to the development of the great natural resources of the country.

There is no country when you look at this great north land, in which Providence has done so much and man so little as in this country. This is brought forcibly to our attention when we see the great resources of the country, the scientific discoveries which were made during the war, the discoveries in respect of machinery and electricity, chemistry, biochemistry, physics and transportation. But we are sound asleep in our immigration policy when we have not a national policy which will solve this problem and take much of the burden of debt off our taxpayers. This can be solved in a national and a fair way, before the eyes of all men, to develop the natural resources of the sea, the soil, the forest and the mine.

I am friendly to what has been proposed by some to the effect that skilled workers should be allowed in, with assisted passages, if necessary, so that they may build up some of the industries which are down and out. They would help the small man in industry, and the man in retail business. The immigrants to whom I have referred, who came here in the days long before confederation and cut down forests and built up Ontario, have never cost the taxpayers a cent. I look in the country around the city from which I come, and I see where those people have gone into western Ontario and into northern Ontario. They never cost the country one dollar, but they have gone up north and put up with all the suffering and privation in the old days to develop that great north country.

Sir John A. Macdonald had an immigration policy, as did others who followed him. I believe, if that policy were brought up to date today, it would be sufficient. I do not want to see anybody out of work, either, because of our limited immigration policy. That feature must be considered too, as should any such policy, so as not to interfere with absorption in employment for our own returned soldiers and our citizens.

Mr. M. J. COLDWELL (Rosetown-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I am going to join those tonight who have expressed regret that the Minister

[Mr. Church.]

of Mines and Resources (Mr. Glen) has not presented something of a policy to the house, when we are discussing the important measure which is before us. I think the time has come when this country should have a policy in regard to immigration, and more particularly that phase of immigration to which Canada is committed by her signature, namely the relief of those persons in displaced persons camps in Europe, who are known as refugees and sufferers from the war.

I know perfectly well that Canada has done something in regard to this, perhaps more than some other countries have done. But we are not relieved from the necessity, by the relatively small amount we have done, of considering a policy which will bring relief to those sufferers in the displaced persons camps in the several zones in Europe.

I want to express tonight, first, my disappointment that the government has not yet brought before us a policy in regard to immigration and, second, that the minister himself this afternoon did not make a more comprehensive statement regarding the proposals contained in the bill, and the general matter of immigration.

Having said that, I want to be brief tonight, and discuss merely one phase of the bill which has been under discussion from all sides of the house. I refer to the repeal of the Chinese immigration exclusion bill, as it is sometimes referred to. May I say to the hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Cruickshank) that when he says any member of this party is opposing the continuance of the exclusion bill because he has to, he is saying something which is fundamentally untrue.

My good friend the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. MacInnis), long before this movement was organized in Canada, was an outstanding opponent of racial discrimination in British Columbia. And the founder of this movement, the late J. S. Woodsworth was, so far as I can discover from *Hansard*, the only member in the house who in 1923 opposed the passage of the bill we are now asked to repeal.

This movement throughout the years, in spite of the political disadvantages which were associated with this particular problem, has stood resolutely year in and year out for justice to people who lived in Canada, regardless of their race, their creed or their colour. It is because that has been our traditional policy that, when I saw the announcement that this measure was to be introduced, I gave it a wholehearted welcome.

But when I look at the bill before us, and the statement made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King), which has already been