

*Immigration Act*

full statement from the government as to just how this policy will be administered under P.C. 2115. Particularly would we like an explanation with regard to the treaty which was at one time being negotiated with China, and whether those negotiations are still continuing, and whether such treaty when concluded will embrace all questions of immigration as between Canada and China. If the treaty has been dropped, we should like to know why it has been dropped and whether it is intended to resume negotiations in the future. I feel that we should have answers to those questions before we are asked to give second reading to the bill.

Mr. L. W. SKEY (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, my first words this afternoon must be to express my personal gratification that the subject of Canadian immigration has come under the personal attention of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King). Two years ago, speaking for the second time in the house, I spoke on immigration. Since that time a number of other members have made their contributions to the subject, particularly the member for Vancouver-Burrard (Mr. Merritt) and the member for Vancouver South (Mr. Green). I venture to say this afternoon that the opposition to a large extent have made the policy expressed by the Prime Minister yesterday. If you go back over the history of immigration in this house during the last two years you will find, Mr. Speaker, that that contention is well founded.

Along with a number of other hon. members I welcome the action which has been taken by the government to admit members of the families of Canadian citizens and residents, members of the veterans forces who fought beside us in the war, and this delayed assistance to displaced persons. I welcome particularly the action taken on behalf of Canadian women engaged to men overseas. The action which the government is now taking places these women in the same category as men. It allows them to bring their fiancés to Canada.

Two other things remain to be done, Mr. Speaker. One is to follow up the remarks made by the Prime Minister in his statement yesterday as reported at page 2646 of *Hansard*, where he said:

The immigration branch of the Department of Mines and Resources and its offices abroad were reduced to proportions wholly inadequate to cope with an active immigration policy. With the end of the war, and in the light of changed economic conditions, the government has already taken steps to expand and strengthen this branch of the public service.

[Mr. Fulton.]

It is my opinion that in spite of the fine service given by this branch, the extreme courtesy which they have extended to me on all occasions, it could still stand further support from the government and a further increase in staff to deal with this urgent problem.

The second thing I want to say this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, is this. We have heard the hon. member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton) speak of treaties this afternoon; we must now be prepared to ask the labour government of Britain for a treaty. I have made some study of this subject. As I understand it, the labour government are restricting the emigration of their people, and this applies not only to Canada but to other empire countries. Britain stands in history at about the same point that France stood when the Huguenots left there to take to the far corners of the earth their genius in art, in architecture, in industrial organization, in craft work, and in many other specialized lines. Britain is now about to be forced to export some of its "know-how". It must export its "know-how" because a great many of these people want to leave. I am one who agrees with the hon. member for Macleod (Mr. Hansell) who stated yesterday that Britain is an occupied country, occupied by an alien form of government. I am prepared to say that socialism in the years to come will add to Britain's many other burdens which have resulted from the war. We must now be ready to receive the torch from these people, to accept the "know-how", and to give them the freedom which they will be denied at home.

When I rose I said that my remarks would be brief. In closing may I refer to what the Prime Minister said on page 2645 of *Hansard*, that the government's new policy will be energetically applied. He was there referring to enlarging the population of the country. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that "energetic application", to quote the Prime Minister's words, means something at this time. In the two short years that I have been here we have seen the government in many frames of mind. I hope that in this instance "energetic application" means what it says.

Mr. MACKENZIE: May I ask the hon. member if this is not the second time that he has spoken on the second reading of the bill?

Mr. SKEY: I spoke on the resolution, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It was very good, anyway.