

*Hebridean Immigrants*

The discussion on the motion can only be on the lines of the matter of urgent public importance. There are several rulings on this matter. At page 105 of Beauchesne's Parliamentary rules and forms, I find the following:

A motion under this rule must be restricted to a single specific matter of recent occurrence; and as the matter to be discussed must be of an urgent nature, no notice should be given of an intention to resort to the motion on a future occasion.

The point is that there is restriction in the debate to the matter which is under consideration. The whole question of immigration cannot be brought up in the discussion. The question introduced on this occasion has been clearly explained by the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Speakman) as a matter of urgent public importance. That is the only question before the House. No advertisement of any special province for immigration purposes could be the subject of this debate. I would ask the hon. member to confine his remarks to the question before the House.

Mr. MARTELL: I bow to the ruling, but I think the hon. member for Red Deer in the course of his disquisition was intending to criticize the government for things that occurred in regard to immigration. If I misunderstood it, then I apologize to you Mr. Speaker, and bow to your ruling, for which I have the deepest respect. But when the hon. member undertakes to criticize Father Macdonell for what he has done, I wish to say that the province of Nova Scotia would approve of what he has done and would welcome all these immigrants.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: Does the hon. member consider that in my remarks there was any implied criticism of Father Macdonell or any criticism of the government's general immigration policy? I was criticizing this as one direct result of the policy.

Mr. MARTELL: The hon. member is apt to criticize everything the Minister of the Interior does. All I have to say to him is this—and I do not want to get away from the question before the House—that the

people of Canada are absolutely  
4 p.m. satisfied with what the minister is doing. He is doing his best and no man can do more, as the saying goes. My hon. friend could not be satisfied with anything the Minister of the Interior did at all. Now Mr. Speaker, I am not going to discuss this matter. But seeing that my hon. friends opposite are somewhat selfish in their interests, all I have to say is that, irrespective of what the motion may be, if the rest of this country

[Mr. Speaker.]

are not prepared to take Father Macdonell's immigrants, the county of Hants—I need not say anything about Nova Scotia—will take them all, because they are sturdy highlanders and are quite willing and able to make their living in any sphere of life in which God may place them. I have nothing more to say beyond this, that I want the whole question considered on its merits. And when the hon. member undertakes to move the adjournment of the House to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, I think he should have something of greater interest than the discussion of something that pertains simply to the particular constituency of Red Deer, where he wants people to settle, but he does not want the proper people to go there.

Mr. H. C. HOCKEN (West Toronto): Before the minister replies, I wish to put a question which he might answer. I have been fully informed by the friends of Father Macdonell as to his whole plan, and I am very much surprised to hear the information that has been given to us by the hon. member for Red Deer. The minister will remember that an important delegation waited upon him, including the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Boivin), the member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Carroll) and some others, and laid down a plan for taking care of the men whom Father Macdonell was bringing over. I think the information given to the minister was that an organization had been completed clear across the continent, so that those men who are coming out under his auspices would be taken care of perhaps better than any other group of immigrants that have ever come to Canada, I would like the minister, when he replies to the question put by the hon. member for Red Deer, to tell us whether this organization that Father Macdonell created has fallen to pieces, or whether he still hopes to make it operative, so that the men he brings out will be taken care of as he promised, as we all hope they will be; and if he will fulfil his part of the undertaking that he entered into with the Minister of the Interior.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Will the hon. member for West Toronto be just a trifle more explicit, because unfortunately there are many schemes that come up and get into the hands of men who are anxious about immigration, and they listen to them and unfortunately make use of them; and then they do not materialize. Did my hon. friend have reference to the scheme suggested by the Catholic organizations for the loaning of money to these men? I am not just clear on that.