

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

comes to Canada and this creates great disillusionment on his part. It also seems to me that it is not in keeping with good immigration policy.

If the areas that need immigrants cannot appeal to them honestly and place the correct facts before them, then probably immigration to these areas should not take place. The mining industry over the years, the gold mining industry in certain areas and particularly certain mines, have used a pretty unfair method of getting people to work in this country. This method has meant that these immigrant employees have become tied by contracts entered into by reason of their being advanced money for transportation and other considerations with the stipulation that they must stay in the area for a set period of time.

While this is all well and good if the immigrant knows what the conditions will be and what the stipulations are, immigrants have reported to me that the conditions which have been presented in this advertising—I have seen newspaper advertisements that bear out the statements of many immigrants—have not been found to be factual and this has created a great deal of resentment on the part of these people.

This type of advertising also means that in many cases the immigrant will stay for the length of time agreed upon but leave immediately that time has expired. The situation is then made that much worse. This type of policy also produces criticism in the countries from which the immigrants come because this situation is pointed out in correspondence with the people at home.

● (8:00 p.m.)

In the matter of immigration I also hope the minister will give some consideration to a fairly specific problem that has been raised by the Federation of Agriculture. I refer to the problem raised by the Federation of Agriculture whereby there has been no definite arrangement made in the immigration law through which transient employees can come to Canada for the purpose of picking berries, harvesting tobacco and other products, and under which the department can supervise accommodation made available and wages paid to these transient workers. These people enter Canada for a certain period of time specifically to carry out this kind of work. I might point out that on occasion there is a great shortage of this type of labourer. Some of these transient workers come from Mexico,

[Mr. Peters.]

work in the United States and then come to Canada to take advantage of the later season here. However, when they reach the Canadian border they find that the same type of arrangement available to them in the United States is not available to them in Canada.

The Federation of Agriculture is of the opinion that much of the difficulty in finding workers in specific agricultural fields would be alleviated if assistance could be provided these transient workers when they cross the border from the United States to Canada. I believe that if that kind of arrangement could be made it should be undertaken by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration.

I intended to mention some other specific problems with regard to immigration and offer some suggestions, but I know the minister is not directly responsible for these estimates and I will therefore defer my remarks until the house has an opportunity to look at those estimates for which he is responsible.

Mr. Haidasz: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to delay the passage of the estimates of this department but I should like to say that I associate myself with the views expressed by the hon. members for Waterloo South and Greenwood in extending congratulations and best wishes to the new minister of this important portfolio. I should like to bring once again to the minister's attention the grave concern expressed to me by Canadian citizens originating from countries of central Europe, who have found it very difficult to sponsor immigrants or visitors from those countries to Canada. I should like to ask in particular whether the minister or his predecessor have held or intend to hold any discussions with representatives of the governments of central European countries in order to facilitate the processing of applications of immigrants from those countries. I say that this has raised many problems, and in view of the delicacy of the matter and the representations made to me I should like to know whether the minister is in a position at this time to make a statement on this subject.

Mr. Marchand: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I was very impressed by one remark made by an hon. member concerning the life expectancy of a minister of immigration and I may say I am a little bit worried.

Mr. Knowles: This time the department is being done away with.

Mr. Marchand: The hon. member for Winnipeg North was disappointed with the