

Immigration

by the R.C.M.P. rather than by officials of the department of immigration. What is true is that immigrants are tried and condemned without even knowing that their trial is taking place. Somehow the immigration authorities are informed that the immigrant is undesirable. The immigrant is given no opportunity whatever to learn what the charges against him are, who has made the charges or to defend himself against them. In fact it is the admitted policy of the government to withhold such information from everyone, including members of parliament.

I defy any member of parliament, unless he can secure a special favour from the minister or some official, to find out, in the case of an immigrant who has been barred for security reasons, what the evidence is against him or by whom the charges were made. I have a case at the present time with which the minister is familiar. It concerns a man who came to this country long before the second world war from one of the countries now behind the iron curtain. He became a Canadian citizen before the second world war and enlisted with the Canadian forces at the outbreak of the war. Because of his knowledge of European languages the Canadian military authorities recommended that he be transferred to the British overseas service, and he was used by the British intelligence service in Egypt and in a number of other campaigns elsewhere during the second world war.

Recently this man has attempted to bring his new wife to Canada, a woman whom I am told he has known since childhood and whom he married recently. She cannot be admitted to Canada. The first reason given to him was that the government had no facilities in that man's country of origin for processing the application for admission. When I tracked the matter down and insisted that there must be some way of processing applications for admission from that country because I personally knew of numbers of people who had come from that country and whose applications had been processed in that country, the information was vouchsafed that this woman could not come here because there were charges against her.

Neither the woman nor her husband nor her representative in parliament has any knowledge of what these charges are, and in cases such as this one it is not the policy of the government to divulge the nature of any such charges. I submit that some consideration should be given to the way in which these cases are handled. It does seem to me to be rather undemocratic that some police officer

[Mr. Noseworthy.]

should lodge a complaint against a would-be immigrant concerning which the would-be immigrant has no knowledge whatsoever, can secure no knowledge whatever as to the charge and is given no opportunity of defending himself or herself.

Another complaint that I have heard from immigrants is that there is a tendency on the part of immigration officials to treat these people as so many numbers, just numbers of people. They are checked, weighed and examined and if they measure up to certain standards they get the blue ribbon stamp of government approval, are put aboard boats and permitted to land in Canada.

Mr. Knowles: Everything but rail grading.

Mr. Noseworthy: There is a tendency to treat them as so many pieces of imported machinery rather than as human beings with human needs and human feelings. A third complaint is that the manner in which assistance is given to immigrants is such that only the head of the family may receive assistance. If there has been a change in that policy recently, I think it is in the interests of the government that the information should be made available. However, my information is that only heads of families may receive assisted passages to Canada. It is then necessary for them to leave their families in their homeland. Consequently they have to maintain two homes while they are trying to establish themselves in a new country. That becomes a hardship especially in view of the fact that once the immigrant has landed in Canada the federal government just about washes its hands of him completely. The only concern the federal government has with them after they land is if they should run foul of the law and become cases for deportation. I suppose that the minister and the government are not entirely to blame. We make no provision for taking care of these people if they meet with misfortune, sickness or death in the early stages of their life in Canada. Family allowances become payable after they have been here one year but there is nothing for the first year. Old age security and old age assistance payments become available after 20 years' residence. The sum total of the results which flow from this policy is that over the years we have been receiving hundreds of thousands of immigrants, keeping them here for a few years, teaching them new skills and giving them an opportunity to become accustomed to the new world way of life, and then we find them going to the United States. For many years emigration from Canada has pretty well equalled immigration into Canada. Over the years there have been hundreds of thousands of immigrants who