

9 EDWARD VII., A. 1909

Q. Do you think it would be wise to have a certificate to the effect that he has never been mentally affected?

A. I have already filed a copy of the form which the immigrant must fill in before the booking agent declaring that neither the immigrant himself or his relatives have ever been insane.

Q. That is intended to be effective for the future?

A. Yes.

Mr. McINTYRE (Strathcona).—Would you propose, Mr. Monk, that the immigrant should get a medical certificate?

Mr. MONK.—He should be given a certificate and no bonus should be paid on him unless he has it.

Mr. McINTYRE (Strathcona).—Supposing a person wants to evade the law and denies that he has ever been in an asylum, which would be quite possible. How are you going to disclose the fact that he was in an asylum once?

Mr. MONK.—You would have such faith as you could attach to the certificate of a physician in the locality from which the immigrant comes.

Mr. McINTYRE (Strathcona).—He might easily change his location, within a year say.

Mr. MONK.—There might be fraud no doubt.

Mr. SCOTT.—There might be substitution.

Mr. MONK.—There might be undoubtedly. He might do the same thing with the certificate as to his moral character. He might commit fraud in regard to that but one is exposed to such a thing in all cases.

Mr. McINTYRE (Strathcona).—An immigrant is asked before entering the United States if he ever was insane. Do you think it is wise to ask an intending tourist to this country or an intending immigrant the question whether he ever was insane? You think it would be desirable?

Mr. MONK.—I think it would be desirable to control that man.

*By Mr. Monk:*

Q. Take the immigrants who come from the continent, it is the easiest thing for them to furnish proof that they are morally qualified. Take the Frenchman, for instance, he never travels without a ticket in which everything that he has done since he was, so to speak, a man, is entered. He has his livret and that certifies as to everything he has done, or whether he has ever done anything wrong?

A. Whether he has completed his military duties and so forth.

Q. Frenchmen never travel without it, and I think the same is the case in most continental countries. In England there is always a civic authority who can furnish a certificate.

A. I might say that the whole intention of the Bill which is now before parliament is to strengthen the department in keeping out undesirable immigrants. That is the whole purpose of the Bill.

*By Mr. Blain:*

Q. As a matter of fact, there has been no medical examination heretofore of immigrants before they took passage, is that correct?

A. They are examined by the port doctor, representing the British board of trade, before they go on board the ship.