

Mr. NEILL: We hear every day of large numbers of immigrants coming into this country. Where do they come from? And if they come from Poland, and are not farmers, what are they? I do not wish to embarrass the minister, nor to take up the time of the House, but is there any way of ascertaining whether these people are agriculturists save by an all-too-easily-evaded affidavit? Do they have to produce a certificate from the government of the country they come from that they have been engaged in agricultural life?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes; that is the very reason why we have men at Bucharest and Warsaw at the present time. And if an immigrant comes down to one of the eastern ports without being armed with a certificate from those agents he will not be allowed to ship. Formerly we had the difficulty my hon. friend refers to, but that is not the case to-day. However, I would not like to make my statement too definite, because these officials have only been at those posts for the past four weeks. Having that inspection close to the home of the immigrants makes it very convenient for them if they are rejected. A considerable number of farmers are coming from Poland to join their friends in western Canada, but to say there are large numbers of immigrants coming into our cities is not in accordance with the facts.

Mr. IRVINE: In view of the fact that agriculture is more or less of a seasonable occupation, and in view also of the poor economic conditions on the farm described by the representatives of the farmers in this House, does not the minister think that the immigrants who are being brought in now will very largely swell the ranks of our unemployed next winter? And is the Government prepared to accept the responsibility for that result?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Let me tell my hon. friend from East Calgary that if we are to bring no immigrants in the department would like to know. But practically every member who speaks upon the subject of immigration points to it as the main solution of our difficulties. The hon. member for Fort William and Rainy River has just made that assertion. And the Department of Immigration is being asked to bring people into this country. Well, whom are we to bring in? I have pointed out that on the prairies many of our farmers have had to go without farm help, notwithstanding the fact, as my hon.

[Mr. Charles Stewart.]

friend knows, that in the cities there are many unemployed, because these unemployed will not work on the farms. If a condition arises next winter because of the seasonal employment on the land, I think my hon. friend from East Calgary will not find in the cities a very large number of the people whom we are bringing from Great Britain and the continent. We are endeavouring to bring in farmers, not men who are looking for employment in cities, and I cannot conceive of any other policy to meet the situation than the one I have just outlined.

Mr. EVANS: By recent Order in Council has the money qualification of immigrants been abandoned? I think it was \$250.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): It has been abandoned except in so far as orientals are concerned.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: I was very glad to hear the minister state that the rigid inspection of immigrants at the port of landing is to be continued. I think this is very important, and notwithstanding the desirability of having immigrants examined before they come to this country, yet under present conditions I believe the responsibility rests upon the steamship companies and their booking agents to return to their homes those intending immigrants who cannot pass inspection. In that way I feel that an almost sufficient safeguard is provided. It is certainly very sad to find a family seeking admittance to this country turned back at the port of landing, and I have known cases where large families have been refused admittance under almost heartbreaking circumstances. But we cannot very well avoid such occasional hardships, and if the minister and his department exercise the precautions which they evidently intend to do, such cases will be reduced to a minimum.

Now, in regard to the remarks of the hon. member for East Calgary (Mr. Irvine) as to the seasonal occupation of those engaged in farm work, it is quite true that for the last six or eight years very little immigration has flowed into this country owing to the conditions which prevailed in the Old Land. The department may be ever so anxious to provide the necessary labour for the carrying on of farming operations in this country, but no matter what safeguards they employ, there will be people coming in who have no desire or intention to carry on farm work or to continue in it for any length